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Inter-Arab Affairs

Tunisia's Ben Ali Mediating Between Syria, ACC

JN0709163489 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 6 Sep 89 p 20

[Text] Beirut—AL-ITTIHAD has learned that Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali is embarking on a mediation effort behind the scenes to ease the sharp differences between Syria and some members of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] whose members are Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, and the Yemen Arab Republic. A senior Lebanese official said that the telephone conversation which Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad held with the Tunisian president on Sunday [3 September] is part of this effort. The Lebanese official noted that President Ben Ali is holding contacts with Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, Jordan's King Husayn, and Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Saudi Foreign Minister on Tripartite Committee

LD1109101189 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2152 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, has explained that the main reason behind setting the date for the next meeting of the foreign ministers of member-countries of the supreme tripartite Arab committee authorized to resolve the Lebanese crisis was to assess the situation, especially in light of the Lebanese, Arab, and international appeals.

At a news conference today, Sunday, in Cairo after the conclusion of the work of the joint Egyptian-Saudi commission, His Royal Highness pointed out that statements have been made by the Lebanese and even by Syria which have welcomed and demanded that the (tripartite) committee resume its mission.

In that regard, His Royal Highness stressed that the efforts made by the committee have made an impact on responsible and concerned sides in Lebanon have received a gratifying response from all sides. He said that the committee cannot impose a solution or force anyone to accept a settlement, but that its main objective is to make proposals to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions and, consequently, it relies on officials and those concerned about the Lebanese issue and the extent of their response. [passage omitted]

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal pointed out that the Lebanese crisis was one of the most important issues discussed.

He said: "This indicates that our two countries are particularly interested in this issue. There was complete understanding between the custodian of the two holy mosques and President Mubarak at the Casablanca summit on this issue."

His Highness stressed that the joint efforts exerted by the custodian of the two holy mosques and President Husni Mubarak have greatly contributed to arriving at the historic resolution on Lebanon at the Casablanca summit. In his news conference he pointed out that this continuous consultation, understanding, and cooperation between the two countries has proved beneficial for the Arab issues as a whole, especially for the Palestinian issue, the Lebanese crisis, and the Iran-Iraq war.

His Highness expressed the belief that the Saudi-Egyptian joint committee has opened wide horizons for cooperation between the two countries in the two fields of serving the Arab issues and bilateral cooperation, which he described as being for the benefit of these Arab issues.

In reply to a question about the Lebanese problem, His Highness said: "The view submitted by the supreme Arab tripartite committee describes frankly and honestly a suitable base for solving the Lebanese issue, because it is based on the resolution of the Arab summit."

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed that this resolution was studied with care, in depth, and objectively. He added that the Casablanca summit resolution is a historic one, and was adopted after careful study. It is aimed at serving higher interests, in addition to the fact that it was adopted unanimously by all Arab leaders. [passage omitted]

As for the possibility of holding an Arab summit, the foreign minister stressed the firm and declared stances of Saudi Arabia in this regard. He said: "God willing, the regular summit will be held in Riyadh when consultations are completed and when it is well prepared." [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Does 'Not Object' to Egyptian Peace Plan

JN1109145289 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic 10 Sep 89 pp 3, 20

[Excerpts] Cairo, Washington—AL-ITTIHAD—Egyptian President Husni Mubarak said yesterday that Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat is currently studying the Egyptian 10-point initiative for a peaceful solution to the Palestine question. [passage omitted]

In Cairo, PLO Executive Committee member Jamal al-Surani told AL-ITTIHAD that the PLO did not object to the Egyptian 10-point plan on Shamir's proposals for elections in the occupied territories.

He said the PLO accepts these points and has not rejected them.

This came in reaction to statements by Yitzhaq Rabin that the Palestinians are certainly not satisfied with the Egyptian plan. [passage omitted]

PLO, Israel, U.S. Reportedly Agree on Plan

JN1209100089 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0845 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Doha, 12 Sep (WAKH)—Citing sources it described as reliable, today's Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH said that the U.S. Administration, the Palestinian leadership, and Israel have agreed on the Egyptian plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories.

The paper said that the Egyptian and Palestinian sides are eager to ensure that there is no clamor regarding the 10 proposals included in the Egyptian plan so as to make a clear and specific achievement that could be developed in the next stage. The paper added that Egypt is currently seeking an agreement on the mechanism of future action in the region and an appropriate formula to hold dialogue among all parties aimed at making a final decision regarding elections in the occupied Arab territories.

Also, during his visit to Cairo which concluded last night, Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat held consultations with President Husni Mubarak on the Egyptian plan.

PFLP Spokesman Comments on Viability of Plan

JN1109135289 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat arrived today in Cairo to discuss with President Husni Mubarak the plan suggested by the Egyptian president to organize elections in the occupied territories. The plan consists of 10 points.

Concerning this plan, the official spokesman for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], commenting on reports of Washington's willingness to discuss President Mubarak's 10-point plan, said today: The U.S. Administration's position offers nothing new. It is an attempt to revive Yitzhaq Shamir's plan.

The PFLP spokesman stated that the front adheres to the Palestinian position rejecting elections under occupation. The front declared that the response of some people to these plans is not binding on those engaged in the intifadah [uprising].

PFLP Official on Rocket Firing Into Israel

JN1109174789 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 10 Sep pp 1, 30

[By Fathi al-Barqawi]

[Text] Tunis—PLO Executive Committee member Abu-'Ali Mustafa said he hoped occasional meetings between Palestinian and Syrian officials would take place to tackle in depth the current issues between the two sides and that they would not take place only on the sidelines of such conferences as the Casablanca and Belgrade summits.

In an exclusive statement to AL-ANBA', Mustafa denied that the meeting held a few days ago between Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and the Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat and the PLO Political Department's chief Faruq Qaddumi, on the sidelines of the Belgrade nonaligned summit, had achieved anything in terms of normalizing relations. He indicated that the PLO was working to develop relations with all the Arab states on clear political bases.

On charges that Syria was behind the rocket fired across the Jordanian border into Palestinian territory, Abu-'Ali Mustafa, who is assistant secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine [PFLP], said Arab countries should not be linked without reason to commando operations regardless of their origin. This is in keeping with the approach agreed by the PLO in the interest of effective military action against Israeli occupation from across Arab borders. He said the rocket operation was political and in line with the national, militant Palestinian program.

Abu-'Ali emphasized that associating Arab countries with such operations is calculated to exempt Israel from the responsibility of the behavior of the Zionist occupying army against the Palestinian people and to marginalize the national struggle of the Palestinians against occupation.

'Text' of Interview With PFLP-GC's Jibril

JN2508170289 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1524 GMT 25 Aug 89

[Announcer-read "text" of interview with Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, published in unspecified issue of Dubayy AL-BAYAN, by unidentified correspondent in Damascus—date not given]

[Text] [Correspondent] How do you view the Palestinian national scene today, especially following the so-called Palestinian independence charter and Israel's intransigent reactions as expressed by Shamir's plan and the restrictions attached to it by the Likud Party leadership?

[Jibril] Political action has scientific principles without which we would be unable to attain our objectives, but we will be destroyed before we get there. Political action has a scientific principle that states that when the balance of forces with the enemy is in your favor, then you will make gains. When there is equilibrium in the balance of forces, you are likely to strike a modest or tolerable deal. There is no precedent in history where any political movement that struggled under a balance of forces favoring its enemies managed to achieve any material gains. There still are a good many people whose rights are still denied because they have yet to achieve parity with their enemies—parity that should make it possible for them to attain their rights. In our Arab and Palestinian arena, some leaders are attempting to make light of the Arab mind by arguing that we now are in possession of a parity of forces and so we can impose on

the enemy the independent Palestinian state. When they are asked to explain this parity, they are at a loss and set about advancing unscientific political arguments. All they say is that the Middle East is a volatile region and the superpowers do not want it to be a powder keg. They go on to argue that a settlement is at hand and that it will provide for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. We in the PFLP-GC see things developing differently. We are certain that there will not be an independent Palestinian state, simply because the balance of forces regarding the Arab nation, Muslims, and Palestinians is such as to make it impossible to realize an independent Palestinian state—not even in the West Bank and Gaza strip.

There is no doubt that Arab and international parties have dragged some Palestinian leaders to the trap either by force or out of a desire and conviction of this game. These forces have even lured the present PLO leadership since 1982 following the Zionist invasion of Lebanon that marked a turning point in the process of inducements and making concessions. We always say that as Arabs, Muslims, and Palestinians, we lack a balance of forces wherby we may secure a fair deal, not even short-term. Our experience is there for all to see. Here is Egypt, whose population is 50 million Arabs and has a 1-million-strong army.

Al-Sadat went to Jerusalem and Camp David with very significant cards in his hand. He had with him Egypt, the biggest Arab country. He had his alliance with the Soviets, and the oil weapon whose influence grew after the 1973 war. Al-Sadat, who was the leader of the Arabs following the October war, had all these cards in his possession. And in the end, Al-Sadat made peace, recognized Israel, and normalized ties with Israel, and surrendered Egypt's resources to American imperialists and Zionists.

During the Casablanca summit, President Mubarak, speaking to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, said: Previously, we had American wheat in 3-month intervals. Now, the docking of the wheat-carrying vessel is timed on a daily basis: Whenever the Americans feel we are not being positive with them, the vessel does not dock, which means that the 50 million Egyptians eat on a day-to-day basis and according to the whims of the U.S. Administration. These are the words of Husni Mubarak to Colonel al-Qadhdhafi. I hope Al-Qadhdhafi will excuse me for quoting him on his meeting with Mubarak. We would like to ask 'Arafat and the other states pursuing this approach: Where are your cards that you will use in the negotiations? Is the eastern front in its present state going to strike fear in the heart of the Zionist entity and make it make concessions and then evacuate the West Bank and Gaza?

Iraq, after 8 years of war, has destroyed its resources and those of Iran; there is nothing the Zionists have to fear from a potential battle. Syria alone is in no position to go to a war similar to the 1973 war when it had Egypt in the south as a partner. And oil, which we used to have as a weapon, is a weapon hanging over our heads now. Even the stand of the Soviets in 1973 was clear on the Middle East and was somewhat in conflict with the ambitions of the West. Now, however, this is not so. We even feel that there is a new policy. But then it is not Sinai about which negotiations and bargaining are taking place. The enemy bore a heavy burden defending Sinai, which is one and a half times the area of Palestine. Had it not been for the oil in Sinai, the peninsula would have been a heavy burden to the Zionists. Now, however, the struggle is between the Zionist ideology that views the West Bank and Gaza Strip as liberated territory and part of Biblical Israel, and ours that says Palestine is not just the West Bank and the Gaza Strip but all of Palestine is ours. The struggle here is about far more important issues than that of Sinai. With 50 million people and huge resources and civilization behind it, Egypt paid a costly price for Israel's withdrawal from Sinai.

We wonder: In view of the current balance of power, are we really capable of attaining an independent Palestinian state? Who is the current PLO leadership fooling? What independence? Ink-on-paper and empty words independence? We believe that the current leadership represented by Yasir 'Arafat and his followers knows well that there is no possibility of establishing a Palestinian state under the current balance of power. Nevertheless, they want to meet the U.S. conditions of recognizing UN Security Council Resolution 242 and halting our armed struggle. All the concessions they offered—and more are yet to be offered—were meant to be offered, but with a cover of cellophane, which is here the declaration of independence. However, the bitter fact is the host of concessions that were offered—including the recognition of Resolution 242; the cancellation of the national charter; and their proposal for reconciliation, recognition, and normalization with the Zionist enemy. We see that this state is going ahead between them and the enemy. We believe that the declaration of independence is a big lie made by 'Arafat and his followers. The major objective is to yield to the U.S. conditions.

[Correspondent] As you are talking about the balance of power which now makes it unlikely to establish a Palestinian state close to Israel, do you in principle approve a solution based on the establishment of an independent Palestinian state?

[Jibril] If we can establish an independent state that has the right to make its own decisions without reconciliation, negotiations, recognition, or normalization with Israel, we would be traitors if we do not exert every effort for its sake. This is because in such a case we would have liberated it by our sweat, blood, effort, and suffering. We know that the balance of power needed to establish it requires many things, including unity of internal Palestinian ranks, unity of ranks among the PLO and the nationalist regimes and among the PLO and the revolutionary forces in the world, from which 'Arafat distanced himself many years ago and met all the demands of the Americans and the West European states, although he knew that there is no independent Palestinian state. The

maximum that can be achieved is self-rule, the United Arab Kingdom, or a Palestinian state in Amman.

[Correspondent] In light of the disparity you have talked about, what is the PFLP-GC's alternative to reaching the objective of an independent state to replace PLO policy, which you very strongly oppose?

[Jibril] Some Palestinian and Arab brother officials always ask us: Well, 'Arafat and his fellows have gone this way, what is the alternative? Give us the alternative that persuades us amd make us support you, and not this liquidationist leadership. We say the issues of the homeland and principles cannot be discussed this way. It is very difficult to tell somebody that if he cannot liberate Palestine now, then he has no alernative but to accept capitulation. This logic is unacceptable in the popular revolutions and people's liberation movements. Liberty and victory are attained through the accumulation of small elements as struggle continues. In looking at evidence from our Arab Islamic history, the Hittin battle was not the final battle which drove the crusaders outside Palestine or Greater Syria. However, it was the turning point in the conflict against the crusaders. The Arab Muslims waged many battles in which they were defeated, until the Hittin battle which was the beginning of the crusaders' defeat. Muslim leader Salah-al-Din al-Ayyubi died while neither Syria nor Lebanon were completely liberated. Unfortunately, the sons of Salah-al-Din disagreed among themselves and one of them requested the help of crusaders against his brother. The last crusaders' strongholds were in Tripoli in Lebanon, Al-Husn castle, and Al-Madiq castle. Al-Zahir Baybars in the Mamluk era triumphed in the final battle. However, Hittin is the beginning of change in this regard.

Therefore, our alternative is more blood, sweat, effort, and sacrifices. Our nation is targetted by the arrogant and international powers which have harbored rancor against this nation throughout ages. I always draw parallels between what is going on here and the 10th century crusades. We believe that the solution is that the Arab nation should know that its only alternative is continued struggle. We have strategic resources which enable us to continue our struggle. On the other hand, these resources are not available to our enemies. If we consider the Zionist entity as the spearhead for imperialism in this region, this entity has begun to erode 40 years after its establishment. The generals who created the state of Israel on the Palestinian soil and their leaders—Ben Gurion, Begin, Dayan, Moshe Sharet, Eshkol, Golda Me'ir—and their soldiers who reached and crossed the Suez Canal and reached Beirut, we do not believe that this soldier is the same old soldier in the fifties and sixties.

Begin is still alive. He lives at home in a depression as a result of his defeat in Lebanon. We in the Front have had fighting experience with the enemy for a quarter-century. The soldier we used to fight 25 years ago is different from the soldier we are fighting now. The prisoners in our possession are evidence of that. After we interrogated them, we realized that this superman soldier is no longer what he used to be. In other words, the Zionist entity has aged and grown old; whereas the opposite is true in our case. Those who fled before Dayan in 1967 carried out an attack in 1973. In Lebanon, they dragged the enemy's nose through the mud.

Now, Palestine's children, who are no more than 12 or 13 years old, are attacking them with stones. This means that time is not that fatal to us to the extent that some people would put us in a tight corner by asking: What alternative have you got to the course 'Arafat is taking? This reminds me of a saying. When Al-Sadat started moving toward Jerusalem, the United States, and Camp David, Egypt's total debts amounted to $12 billion. This sum was the result of five wars: the Suez war of 1956; the Yemen war; the 1967 war; the war of attrition; and the 1973 war. Now, Egypt's debts amount to $70 billion without wars. Al-Sadat used to tell the Egyptian people: Peace will bring you prosperity. I personally heard him deliver a speech and say, in his Egyptian dialect: Through peace, I shall build a villa for every citizen. You shall eat yogurt and honey. This is how Al-Sadat promoted the capitulation policy. Whoever believes that 'Arafat's course will decrease our people's and nation's terrors believes wrongly. With this logic, people are moving in the direction of risks, gambles, and self-destruction.

We say: We are not desperate. If there were a leadership other than the 'Arafat one present in the Palestinian arena at a time when the heroic intifadah [uprising] approaches the end of its 2d year while confronting the whole Zionist army with stones; had there been another leadership, it would have turned the tables on the heads of the present Arab rulers. Had there been a leader other than 'Arafat, would he not have stood up in the Arab summit conference and told them: Give me a practical stand to support the intifadah in the occupied homeland. Three-quarters of the Zionist army is now occupied and involved in foiling the intifadah. The rest of the Arab borders are passively watching. If Arab armies are rallied within a specific plan, and if there were a real revolutionary Palestinian leadership, it would stand up and tell the Arab leaders: Why do you stand by as observers of this intifadah? However, what we sadly see is that 'Arafat's leadership has let 2 years go by while shielding the Arab regimes in this region from the intifadah's effects and interactions.

I personally used to believe that within 2-3 months after the start of the intifadah, the Camp David regime would topple. However, 'Arafat's leadership stopped the spread and strength of this intifadah. It believed that the duty of the Arab nations and regimes consists of throwing a few crumbs off the table to the people on the inside, knowing that three-quarters of these finances are stolen and wrenched away. In fact, the contrary is true since they starve the real strugglers inside and outside Palestine.

Therefore, the alternative is present on how the revolutionary forces should come together, form a solid union,

trust each other correctly, and confront the onslaught. We do not deny that as a revolutionary Arab force we are in the defensive position and that some of the frontlines have fallen into the hands of our enemies. However, not all have fallen. You can see what is happening in Lebanon and what sort of battle is being waged there under great slogans. However, the truth behind them aims to radically destroy the revolution concept in the Arab homeland, because the concept of the popular armed Arab revolution still exists on Lebanese territory.

The conspiracy now, as you can see—starting with the United States, on to Europe, 'Arafat, and others—aims to drop the fighting rifle and phenomenon of the revolution in Lebanon under the pretext of humanitarian causes. You saw that the Tripartite Committee ignores and pushes aside the Israeli presence, role, and occupation of southern Lebanon. This committee's worry centers on how to remove Syria and all other Palestinian and Iranian rifles out of Lebanon. The committee's concern was crystal clear concerning removing the revolutionary concepts and practices out of Lebanon. We believe that the alternative is manifested in the continuation of the revolution and the escalation of armed struggle. I do not believe that the situation of many Arab regimes is better than ours, while bearing in mind that they are regimes.

For example, Egyptian Interior Minister Zaki Badr says he has 50-60,000 detainees—leftists or otherwise—in the prisons. The Jews have tens of thousands. This means that we are undergoing a stage of revolutionary labor. There are those who want us to raise our hands and surrender. Some simple-minded innocents say: What is your alternative if you do not want to take 'Arafat's course? 'Arafat's course is capitulationist. Whoever wants to capitulate has a clear road ahead of him. Al-Sadat went down that road before. Many Arab regimes are proceeding down that road, including Yasir 'Arafat. We as revolutionary forces reject this capitulation and insult to this nation and our people. We must remain in the midst of this struggle. We shall either die or emerge victorious.

[Correspondent] A fundamental objection raised by the PFLP-GC against the PLO leadership is that it has abandoned the armed struggle and opted instead for diplomatic maneuvers. Do you think that the PFLP-GC is still pursuing armed struggle?

[Jibril] 'Arafat has said time and again after his departure from Lebanon in 1982 that he will not engage in armed struggle. Even his men in southern Lebanon have not carried out any armed action against the Zionist enemy. On the contrary, 'Arafat deployed them there to carry out aggressions and cause us and Syria and other disruptions and embarrassments. To those who are lamenting inter-Palestinian fighting and putting 'Arafat on the defensive, we say that there has not been any inter-Palestinian fighting or Palestinian-Lebanese fighting over the past 3 years. Even so, 'Arafat has ceased to engage in any combatant action against the Zionist enemy. It is no secret that 'Arafat and his organs are now obstructing factions that want to engage in armed struggle in southern Lebanon. They even go so far as to put security barriers before some of these operations. And there is effective and actual coordination between 'Arafat's men and the Lahd forces in southern Lebanon. They hold joint meetings since they are positioned across from each other in eastern Sidon. They meet at night to exchange information.

When we in the PFLP-GC say that we have to pursue the armed struggle and call for it to be sustained, we are being consistent. I think the battles between ourselves and the Zionist enemy over these years bear testimony to our commitment to armed struggle. It is not always, though, that all our major operations succeed as was the case with the Glider operation. You cannot possibly carry out such an operation on a daily basis. Nor is it possible to carry out operations in the style of the one we mounted in Kiryat Shemona and Umm al-'Aqarib because the Zionist enemy facing us is armed to the teeth. Add to that the fact that there is a border belt 15 km wide as a geogrphaic and demographic barrier. The narrowness of the front make it impossible for us to continually reach the enemy successfully. But in principle, we look for and escalate the means to fight against the Zionist enemy. The enemy knows this fact and therefore carries out preemptive attacks against us. The enemy always admits that we are separated by a river of blood.

We in the PFLP-GC are always on the lookout for novel tactics to escalate the armed struggle—be it inside the Palestinian land occupied since 1948 or in the land conquered in 1967. Yesterday, the Zionist enemy put colleagues of ours in the Galilee on trial and sentenced them to jail terms ranging from 10 to 20 years. This is at a time when some operations carried out in Haifa, Nazareth, and Tel Aviv, and in the West Bank, and from southern Lebanon are a success. The question here arises: As long as 'Arafat is committed to armed struggle, which are the parties now mounting armed struggle? Are there unknown soldiers? We and other factions are mounting this action. We seek to keep softening up the enemy forces.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that such operations, even major ones, will really lead to the liberation of Palestine, or that they will have an impact on the enemy? Don't you think that they will provide a pretext for retaliatory action against your bases in Lebanon?

[Jibril] We gave the answer to this question 25 years ago. We answered the question raised about the usefulness of guerrilla warfare and whether such tactics will bring about the liberation of Palestine. We in the PFLP-GC say that the Palestinian people alone will not be able to liberate Palestine since the Zionist pretense in Palestine is an imperialist bridgehead in the Arab region. But we say also that as Palestinians we must be the bridgehead in a process of revolutionizing Arabs and Muslims and investing them in the battle for the liberation of Palestine. We aim to change the Arab and Islamic state of

affairs through these actions, even when the Zionists retaliate. We do not feel any inconvenience. If anything, these major Zionist military operations are virtual slaps to some Arab rulers who are looking on and building their palaces, roads, and highways—those who are promoting consumer economies away from building real indigenous power. These Zionist blows are not directed against us. In fact, they are aimed at an impotent Arab existence.

Was the strike against the Iraqi reactor directed at us? Was the strike against Tunis directed at us? Are strikes in Lebanon directed at us? Actually all these are not directed at us. On the contrary, this falls within our strategy to further expose Arab impotence in order to turn this impotence into a revolutionary movement. A program will then be found on the way to mobilize our energies. Now the Soviet Jew is allowed in the name of Judaism to come to Palestine and fight while we are not allowed to seek the help of the Iranian Muslims who can come and fight with us. Since things are so, let the Muslims come from Central Asia, from the Soviet republics, from Malaysia, from Iran because in view of the impotence we all see, all we can do is to mobilize our Islamic nation everywhere. To say that by large or small operations we can liberate Palestine, no. We are exerting pressure, exhausting the enemy, and spoiling its program. The Jewish emigration program is organized. When there is fighting and a continuation of military action and death, this emigrant will seek a secure country; he will not come to Palestine. But when Jews feel that this country is the country of peace and money, they will come from all over the world, including the New York Jews. Accordingly, the continuation of our fighting and conflict with this Zionist enemy is an urgent need and part of our overall strategy which will eventually uproot the Zionist presence and imperialist influence in our country.

[Correspondent] After this comprehensive review of the prevalent situation on the Arab-Israeli front of confrontation, I would like to move on to some issues related to the Front's everyday policy. Your answer makes me pose another question. During your answers talk was reiterated on Islam, Muslims, and the Islamic nation. My question is related to the Tehran statement which you signed together with some Palestinian factions and some Lebanese parties. What were the circumstances under which that statement was issued, and do you think it is fit for you to return as a party to the Lebanese civil strife at this time in particular?

[Jibril] Our appeal for the help of Muslims everywhere in this battle is actually the outcome of experience and reality. As a faction, our trend has been pan-Arab for 30 years. During these successive decades in which we confronted our enemies, one has to reconsider one's accounts. For it is not shameful for any revolutionary movement to reconsider its accounts and see where sound concepts and defects lie. As an Arab generation, the generation of pan-Arabism, the generation of the fifties, we now find that Palestine is sold in broad daylight and the Zionist-Arab relations are normalized under the slogan of pan-Arabism. Michel 'Aflaq and Salah al-Bitar used to consider the Palestine question the central issue. Should I not be severely shocked when I hear Saddam Husayn say that Israel is a fact and we should accept it and deal with this fact? Should we not reconsider our positions when I see a person like George Habash, who used to call for pan-Arabism and now keeps silent over the partitioning of Palestine and agrees to Resolution 181 at the Palais des Pins in Algiers, and when we see some pan-Arab and progressive parties in the Arab homeland call for peace with and recognition of the Zionist enemy?

I spoke clearly with the Iranian brothers when I visited them. I told them: Our own kinfolk have disappointed us and we have come to seek the help of Islam, so will you help us? This is the last reserve. We began on the Palestinian level in 1965, but leaderships began to relinquish and sell rights. The cycle then moved on to the Arab reality. You can see that all the Arab summit conferences since 1981 have turned to only the political option and recognition of Israel. What links me and the rest of my fellow men in the PFLP-GC with those people, with some of these rulers, or with those theorists? We as a revolution grew up for the sake of liberating Palestine. But soon rulers and colleagues from the Palestinian leaderships come to say in a loud voice that they were mistaken when they embarked on a revolution. You heard Salah Khalaf, who sent the videocassettes to the Zionists, say: We were wrong when we believed that Palestine is ours because the truth is not so.

When we, in the PFLP-GC, see this Jew come to Palestine carrying the Torah, wearing his yarmulke on his head, and fighting us in the name of the Torah, why do I not fight him in the name of the Koran and Islam, and why should I not mobilize the Islamic forces? Does progressiveness mean that we should work like Ataturk, make the state a secular one, and remove the Islamic caliphate from history? Will we become progressive if we do that? We, as revolutionary forces, want to search for everything that can enable us to liberate Palestine. We believe that the current new Islam in Tehran is a revolutionary Islam, and not the Islam of the United States and the agents. We have seen a new Islam, the Islam of revolution, which has confronted all the world's countries in the East and the West in fierce battles over the last 10 years and achieved victory. Does not such Islam, which has confronted all these countries and remained victorious, deserve our Arab homeland's serious study as a revolutionary movement?

The entire world recognizes that the Jews all over the world have the right to return to Palestine. This means that 3 million Soviet Jews have the right to return to Palestine under the slogan of human rights. When these cowardly and capitulatory leaderships held a meeting in Algiers, they deleted the expression: the right to repatriation. They were told that if the right to repatriation continued to exist in their political statements, they would hamper the settlement and the program. Imagine

that the Soviet or European Jew, who is of Aryan origin and who comes from the Kingdom of the Khazars, is encouraged by the world to return to Palestine. I, the Palestinian, who was expelled from his homeland, Palestine, is prevented from dreaming of his right to return to his homeland. The Falasha Jews were transported from central Africa to Palestine by Numayri and 'Adnan Khashuqji in collaboration with Sharon and Begin under the slogan of the right to repatriation. People considered it a successful Zionist bargain. I, as a Palestinian, am forbidden, and if I talk about this subject, I become a terrorist or a romantic who talks about an unrealistic subject.

On the occasion of the so-called enemy independence, Bush sent them a cable which says: I hail your courage through which you have managed to turn your dreams into realities. This is what Bush said. I, the Palestinian who was expelled from my homeland, Palestine, is banned from dreaming of my return to Yafo and Haifa. If we think about this issue, all means of terrorism are used against us and we are killed and destroyed. If we think about the revolutionary Islam in Iran, we are viewed as if we are criminals. We feel that the Islam of Iran is closer to us than some colluding Arab rulers in Casablanca. Will the Arab headband and cloak which are mortgaged to the United achieve victory? We are not interested in this subject. We are trying to mobilize all the energies, wills, and potentials. We bet that something will be said or written that Israel should be removed from the world.

I visited Tehran several times. From the airport and along the streets, there were large metal banners fixed in the ground. On them the following expressions were written in Arabic, English, and Persian: Israel should disappear from the world. Israel is a cancer that should be removed. Who is the Arab who can speak in this way at present? What does this mean? It is an education and a culture. Should I feel that the Iranian Muslim is distant? People wonder why we extended our hands to the Muslims in Iran. Instead, people should wonder why we do not stretch out our hands to them. When the revolution in Iran achieved victory 10 years ago, it expelled the Zionist embassy and replaced it by the first embassy of Palestine. Over the last 10 years, they have been saying: Death to the United States and Israel. Should I become hostile to them? Read the books. Some time ago, a book was published on the secret operations of U.S. intelligence. It shows how [former] Central Intelligence Agency Director Casey met with some Arab officials to plot against revolutions in the world. Why do you wonder that if we establish relations, then we hope they will become strong enough to confront and fight the Zionist enemy?

Regarding the issue of the statement signed in Iran by us and the Lebanese forces, we can say that Zionists and the Americans are in Lebanon now to get revenge against us and the Lebanese and Syrians, because we destroyed the 17 May agreement. This is the gist of the talk. We are required to leave Lebanon so that they can revive the 17 May agreement. We will ask every Arab citizen: Do you want us to leave so that Lebanon is pushed like Egypt toward reconciliation, recognition, and normalization, as stipulated in the 17 May agreement. What we reap in Lebanon now is a reactionary U.S.-Zionist revenge because we foiled the 17 May agreement, and they believe we should not be allowed to coordinate and cooperate with the Muslims in Iran, with Syria, and with the nationalist forces to remain steadfast in the face of the Zionists and the European and U.S. designs.

But Saddam Husayn is permitted to coordinate and cooperate with the isolationist forces, the Zionist entity, and 'Arafat in the context of a unified and integrated program. We see their positions alongside each other. Al-Rimal Hotel is where the Iraqis are staying in Jouniyah, and next to it is the Palm Hotel where the Zionists are being put up, and there is a third hotel for 'Arafat named Kazah. They are only 50 meters apart. You see them exchanging greetings from their respective balconies. These are allowed to set up relations with each other so they may take their revenge from us and from the 17 May agreement. We are not allowed to defend the aspirations and hopes of our Arab nation and Arab people in Lebanon. If such a statement constitutes fanning the flames of civil war we say no. We are acting in self-defense. We are defending ourselves and the Arab Lebanon. When we, therefore, coordinate with all Arab and Islamic forces, it is because we know that ours is a tough battle. On the contrary, we have fervent hopes that our cooperation with the Muslims in Iran will be tighter still.

Question: Talk about the Islamic capital of the Palestinian revolution and the new relations and the revolutionary Islam, albeit principally sound and convincing, raises some questions. Was it necessary that the achievement of such an alliance should lead to your adopting the stand you did on the issue of Salman Rushdie—a stand that has created confusion on the informational and political fronts? Do you think this stand has served the Palestinian cause, or has it got the revolution entangled in issues that it should not be concerned with?

[Jibril] Regrettably, Arab information media have not dared discuss the book written by Salman Rushdie called "The Satanic Verses." Having read the book, I felt that it was not only provocative of my Muslim feelings, but that it was a rancorous Zionist-American plot recalling the 10th century crusade against our nation. It is not easy for me to read a book discrediting our messenger and Prophet Muhammad who if it were not for him, the Arabs would not have attained their present status—the messenger and the Islam that extricated the Arabs from ignorance. What were the Arabs before Islam? What is their history? Dahis and al-Ghabra? Al-Aws and al-Khazraj? The Suq of 'Ukaz? These Arabs have gained dignity with Islam and ruled the world under the banner of Islam and the banner of: There is no God but God, and Muhammad is His Prophet. You see Prophet Muhammad in the book pimping for his chaste women. In other places, the book calls the messenger and his

companions the dirtiest epithets. Imagine, the book says Prophet Muhammad was sexually perverse and that Bilal the Abyssinian was his boy. I know that the media dare not spell out to the Muslim and Arab individual what Salman Rushdi wrote.

Why is it that when "The Death of a Princess" was produced in Britain, all hell broke loose? But when it comes to something that touches our feelings and our history and the foundations of our existence within the framework of a Zionist-American-Western conspiracy, they find it strange that we should avenge ourselves on this pimp and spy. Are Khomeyni and the Iranians exclusively responsible for Islam, or should the responsibility be shared among all the Muslims around the world? Suppose a comparable book came out about Christ? Will the ruckus that would have been raised by the pope and all the Christians and churches be any less? Even if such a book was written about Moses. But when a book blasphemes against our messenger and affects a billion Muslims, we should not come to the rescue of our religion and our messenger Muhammad.

[Correspondent] Our calling is such that we must act the role of the advocate of Satan. I will therefore ask you as a man in a responsible position. Do you subscribe to the principle of responding to the word by the bullet?

[Jibril] There is a difference between the word and the conspiracy. Salman Rushdie's action was a conspiracy; many Americans and Europeans, including a good many intellectuals, began to be impressed by Islam. So the West set about mounting a mean offensive against this Islam-oriented move. Salman Rushdie and his book were part of a predetermined arrangement. We have access to information that the Zionist Mosad and the CIA are involved. So it is not a word; it is a plan and conspiracy that call for confrontation with instruments of our own choosing. The United States sent a booby-trapped car rigged with 500 kg of dynamite to kill Shaykh Husayn Fadlallah and had it parked in a Beirut street. The carbomb killed hundreds of children and women on the chance of Shaylh Husayn Fadlallah being among them. The aim was an act of retaliation for the Marines operation. The U.S. Administration admitted as much. Why does not the world rise up?

All that we said concerning Salman Rushdie did not go beyond intentions that have yet to materialize. And yet they want to call us to account on the basis of intentions. As for them, they do what they please and no one calls them to account. They even find someone to justify their actions by saying they have at last avenged the Marines by killing between 300 and 400 women and children and razing a neighborhood to the ground.

The Zionists' aircraft strafe, destroy, and kill all children and women near the fedayeen, the same way as they are killing our children and women in the Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip. All are premeditated crimes that are justified for them. If you did a study on the martyrs of the intifadah, you would find that they included hundreds whose ages were less than 7, 8, or 10 years old. They also include elderly people over 60 or 70 years old. Such things are justified for them, but they blame us for our intentions. If Ahmad Jibril stands up and says: If we see Salman Rushdie we will carry out the Islamic law against him, then we are blamed and heaven and earth are moved. In the meantime, they carry out crimes and kill without being taken to account.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that your participation in fighting on the Aozou front between Libya and Chad was a sound step and is the Palestinian required to go wherever he is asked to go, and some say wherever he is paid?

[Jibril] We greatly differ with some people who do not understand the nature of the conflict between us as a nation and ¡people and our enemies. We did not go to fight in Mozambique or Angola. The slogan of the 1 September revolution has been, from the 1st day of its triumph, "Jerusalem and Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi." The 1 September revolution has suffered a great deal because of its rallying cry and its stands in support of the Palestine question; stands which comprehend the substance of the Arab-Zionist conflict. The attacks on Libya from the air, sea, and land in previous years were only part of the attempts to intimidate and terrorize the Libyan regime into changing its position on the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We in the PFLP-GC believe that having failed to confront Libya from the north, the United States has openly resorted to a battle from the south via Chad. The Arab citizen can acquaint himself with the documents of this conspiracy in detail in the book "Veil" which was published by certain quarters closely linked to the CIA. The book says the United States and France were behind the Chad war and that they coordinated their activities against Libya.

When we, as revolutionary forces, find our brothers exposed to a plot, should we confine our support to issuing a political statement supporting them, or rush to them, stand by them, and fight alongside them? For our part, we do not simply issue statements. We take action and the people then hear about our actions. From the 1st day on which Libya was exposed to danger from the south on the border with Chad, we rushed to the area. So far, 4,500 of our fighters have fought in the great desert in Aouzou. We in the PFLP-GC do not ask how much money Al-Qadhdhafi will give us as a result of this stand, which we consider one of our principled stands in our understanding of the battle. When I, as a Palestinian revolutionary, feel that there is a plot against Libya to destroy the regime or to intimidate it and make it bow down, what must I do? Do I wait and see whether Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi can resist? We believe that it is necessary to exert every possible effort to give him our full support, just as he supported us with resources and funds all these years. This is how we understand our relationship with the Jamahiriyah. Despite all that, we say that it is common knowledge that we have not

received a single piaster from Libya over the past 2 years. We also have not received a single weapon despite the presence of thousands of our front fighters serving in the most difficult part in the world; namely, the Aouzou desert, where the Palestinian fighters have proved that they can fight in the desert just as well as in the mountains. His experience has been a brilliant success.

We will not give up our practical support for the 1 September revolution until the revolution feels that it is fully recovered and that it no longer needs us. In such a case, our fighters will return to their positions in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy.

[Correspondent] Your reply has anticipated the question I wanted to ask. The question concerns your present relationship with Libya in light of what you have said about the suspension of financial aid and the several postponements of a meeting which was scheduled to have taken place in Tripoli. Do you believe that the attempts to terrorize Libya have achieved results?

[Jibril] For several months now, we in the front have not received any military or financial aid. To be honest, we have not received a single piaster. Even our fighters who serve in the great desert are paid by our front. This is because we feel that we are indebted to the 1 September revolution. We in the front, and as Palestinian people, must return the favor as much as we can. When we do not have enough funds to pay these fighters, we will tell our Libyan brothers that we no longer have any money. But what we want to say to them is that we will not abandon you, because we know that a revolution lies in morals, values, and principles, and is not a cheap and temporary opportunistic stand. This is not the first step we have taken. On several occasions, and when we felt that the plot had become serious or that an aggression was about to take place against the Jamahiriyah, we rushed to their help. Our forces took up positions on the frontline when Anwar al-Sadat tried to attack the Jamahiriyah.

There is no doubt that during Reagan's 8-year administraion, Libya was a major target. Reagan believed that two enemies must be punished: the Islamic revolution in Iran and Libya. He exerted great efforts to plot against the Jamahiriyah. For the first time in history, a foreign air force bombed the residence of another head of state. This has only happened in World War II when they tried to bomb the hideouts of Hitler and Mussolini. But nothing of the kind has happened since the war. The residence of a president has its sanctity. Nevertheless, Reagan threw all these international norms overboard and carried out his act.

The attack on the Libyan Jamahiriyah was a big and massive one. True, the Libyans named their country "the Great Jamahiriyah" for confronting the United States, but neither Libya's capabilities nor its resources can face the United States. Still, the Jamahiriyah resisted U.S. belligerence for 8 years under the Reagan administration. Unfortunately, the Jamahiriyah was only backed by the liberation forces, including us, Syria, and Iran. Even when the U.S. Air Force bombed Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's residence and certain Libyan installations, the Arab states were ashamed even to issue a statement condemning the U.S. aggression. This is why they are trying in recent summits to please the Colonel by condemning the aggression which took place several years ago. At the time, the Jamahiriyah was only supported by Syria, Libya, and some Palestinian groups headed by us. The 1 September revolution has triumphed over Reagan, the cowboy and international belligerent. Now Bush has come, but he has many problems to tackle. He is concentrating on his domestic problems. He is not much concerned with international politics.

We are now studying why the Jamahariyah has adopted its present stand. Has there been any change? Unfortunately, no meetings have taken place between us recently. The last meeting took place with Brother 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud when he visited Damascus. We in the front asked him this: You have succeeded in the confrontation, so why are you wasting the results of this victory, especially since Reagan has gone for good? 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud told us: We are now going through a period of contemplation. He added: For 8 years, the United States would not let us sit down and think. So please bear with us. Give us the opportunity to think a little. However, we will not abandon our principled and revolutionary stands.

Certainly, we as revolutionaries must give an opportunity to other revolutionaries like us who want an chance to test certain stands they might benefit from. No doubt, the 1 September revolution has gained great respect during the years of the confrontation with the United States from all world liberation forces. I believe that all other liberation movements are also thinking like us. We are looking at Tripoli now to see how it is thinking in this stage. Perhaps the future will see some meetings with the leader of the revolution and the other Libyan leaders. We will also be frank in our questions and in putting forth our queries.

[Correspondent] There has been a great deal of talk, some correct and some false, about the outcome of the reconciliation between President Hafiz al-Asad and Yasir 'Arafat at the Casablanca summit. Some of this talk, which reached AL-BAYAN, is that Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam met with you and asked you to prepare for 'Arafat's return to Damascus. Regardless of how much truth there is in this, I would like to know what will be the position concerning your future relations with Damascus if the reconciliation takes place?

[Jibril] There is an Arab attempt and an international plot to make Syria kneel down. They are concentrating on Lebanon as the place in which to defeat Syria in order to settle all accounts. When we stand by Syria in Lebanon we are in fact standing by ourselves, because the Syrian stand is against Zionist and imperialist hegemony over Lebanon. In Lebanon, there are only two plans: A

Zionist plan backed by the United States. Saddam Husayn, 'Arafat, and others, and a Syrian plan. We and the Lebanese nationalists and other Muslims, including Iran and even Libya, back the Syrian plan. Some Arab rulers believe that Syria is in dilemma and a difficult position. They want to blackmail Syria. Indeed, they tried to blackmail Syria at the Casablanca summit concerning Lebanon to secure moderate positions on the Palestine question.

The reconciliation with 'Arafat is not among the extortions which they have used and are using persistently. In fact, the Arab rulers and 'Arafat want Syria to strike at the revolutionary Palestinian forces in Syria and Lebanon. 'Arafat does not want anything from Syria. Does he want armed struggle, when he himself has announced several times that he no longer believes in armed struggle and the rifle? If 'Arafat has several thousands of mercenaries in the Sidon area, it is to exploit them to create problems in Lebanon and not to fight the Zionist enemy. They are now killing each other for the sake of privileges and money. 'Arafat and certain Arab rulers want Syria to abandon its national stand in Lebanon and also its support for the revolutionary Palestinian forces. But they cannot directly tell Syria: This is our demand. So they all stood up and spoke about the reconciliation with 'Arafat.

'Arafat wants Syria to strike at the Palestinian forces opposing him. If such a thing is not possible why does 'Arafat want to come to Damascus? Syria does not accept this. Before coming, 'Arafat wants to know if Syria is ready to hand him our necks in Syria and Lebanon. For our part, we are certain that Syria will not give in to him on this subject. Therefore, the reconciliation will not take place. We do not fear 'Arafat's return to Damascus, because we know full well that Syria will not give in to his terms. On the contrary, Damascus will ask him to adopt firmer positions. Therefore, 'Arafat is afraid to go to Damascus, because Damascus will only be open to him if he abandons the sellout program he is pursuing now. He does not want to go back on this program. So why come here? I believe that Syria does not object to 'Arafat's return. The PLO office in Damascus is open. So what does he want to do when he comes here? Last time, when he came to Damascus and left, he attacked our brothers in the Fatah-Uprising, telling the Syrians: You must agree with me on the liquidation of Abu Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha]. When the Syrians did not agree, 'Arafat renewed his attacks on them.

Therefore, we first categorically deny that brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam has said anything to us. Everyone must know that we are not tools in the hands of Syria or anyone else. We, as a front have differed with our Syrian brothers on some occasions. However, we understand it to be a difference within the single struggle trench. We differed with our Syrian brothers after the October war when 'Arafat was their ally and and they formed the rejection front. But this difference was within the alliance. We know that such a difference must not go beyond certain limits, otherwise we would fall into the imperialist-Zionist trap in this respect.

Brother 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam did not say such things to us. We clearly know the circumstances surrounding an 'Arafat visit to Damascus. We have no misgivings about it. Such a thing does not scare us.

[Correspondent] Do you not view this visit in light of Syria's approval of PLO policy in Casablanca? The Casablanca summit approved PLO policy, and as far as I remember, Syria did not express any reservations. So can we view this visit in light of the approval?

[Jibril] First, and to be more precise, Syria amended and strengthened the Palestinian paper which was submitted by the current PLO leadership. It then expressed its reservations over the paper. However, Syria did not oppose the Palestinian paper, because Syrian policy is that priority should be given to Lebanon and that the Palestine question should be dealt with later. Therefore, Syria paid more attention to the urgent matter, and set aside what was not so urgent. It is Syria's right to decide how to manage its policy on this issue. They know that the Arab regimes and 'Arafat are living in delusions. The urgent thing is Lebanon—hence Syria's concern for Lebanon and what it means.

[Correspondent] How do you explain the harmony between the political slogans raised by the intifadah in the occupied homeland and the general policy pursued by the PLO?

[Jibril] First, there is no harmony between the intifadah's objectives and 'Arafat's policy. But if we want to falsify the intifadah's will through statements sometimes made by certain suspect elements such as Faysal al-Husayni, Sari Nusaybah, As'ad al-Saftawi, and so forth, then we say that these people do not express the will and policies of the intifadah. Our evidence is clear. These outdated leaders who follow the 'Arafat line have tried more than once to control the intifadah's leadership. They tried several times to make the intifadah abandon the use of stones, Molotov cocktails, and knives and to resort to placard-carrying demonstrations in the Western liberal tradition. This was discussed in Tunis. They tried to contain the intifadah in the occupied territory. Their experiment failed miserably. Those who carried placards and slogans and marched in the Western liberal manner were stoned by the members of the intifadah. They fixed a day to stop the intifadah, because the Israelis and the Americans told them: If you are the true leaders of the infiadah, stop it for one day. They began spreading reports about stopping the intifadah on the day preceding the 'Id. But it turned to be the most violent so far in the life of the intifadah. Our information is that 'Arafat sends funds and asks intifadah members to display his photograph. Actually, those who carry 'Arafat's photos inside Palestine are punished by the stone-throwers, and the photos are removed. Intifadah members carry Palestinian flags and photographs of martyrs.

Some 15 days before being appointed president, 'Arafat sent messages to the committees and the people in the occupied territory telling them: You must celebrate the occasion in the occupied territory. He provided funds for that day. When 'Arafat was declared president of the state, the situation in Palestine was as if the declaration did not concern anyone there. Many Palestinians told him: This matter does not concern us. Stabbing by knives, explosions in Tel Aviv, Haifa, Nazareth, and 'Afula are outside 'Arafat's program. 'Arafat is against killing agents, but our people in the occupied territory continue to kill agents.

As for the attempt to falsify the will of the intifadah through a group of corrupt figures who have no popular support such as Hanna Sanyurah, Elias Frayj, Hikmat al-Masir, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, and others with whom the Americans are cooperating, these people are not the intifadah and have no connection with it. The intifadah program is different. True, the people are going through a tragic situation and bad economic conditions, and 'Arafat and some Arab leaders are pursuing a starvation policy to subjugate the intifadah, but all types of pressure will be useless. The intifadah's slogan is clear: Complete and comprehensive Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank and Gaza Strip without conditions.

When 'Arafat approved Shamir's plan, people said: This man does not represent us. He allows his men to contact the Zionists and then fakes statements saying negotiations with the Zionists are banned. Study the true positions of our people in the occupied territory correctly so you will not fall victim to deceptive, hostile and pro-'Arafat propaganda.

No doubt, our people are perplexed. Some of them are to be pitied because they believed that 'Arafat's policy would produce something. Now they have realized that this policy is inept and a sellout. They now know that this policy will not gain anything for them. Even concerning the election issue, the intifadah statements and those taking part in the intifadah are saying there can be no elections before the Israeli withdrawal. The difference between the 'Arafat position and that of the intifadah is clear.

[Correspondent] If there are no prospects for this policy, why is 'Arafat pursuing it?

[Jibril] I believe that 'Arafat has followed the dark tunnel, to borrow one of his phrases. However, this dark tunnel contains many alleyways and corridors. 'Arafat is unable to return to the positions he held 10 years ago. To put it in a better way, 'Arafat has taken to the highway [preceding word in English] in his car and is unable to return, stop, or even slow down. Therefore, 'Arafat has to play the game through to the end. 'Arafat's game is now very clear. The United States and the Zionist entity say that the alternative homeland for you Palestinians is in Amman and the Palestinians will never be allowed to have a state or entity west of the River Jordan. The Americans and the Zionists approve of this program. 'Arafat is now an accomplice and partner to this concept. The latest meetings with the Likud and the 'Arafat delegation in Europe, which were subsequently denied by the Likud, had on its agenda a letter addressed to 'Arafat. The letter says that the Israelis could help 'Arafat establish himself in Amman because the Israelis say that their border is the River Jordan. They also tell 'Arafat that if Jordan becomes an alternative homeland for the Palestinians, it will absorb the Palestinians in Syria, Lebanon, and all other Palestinians. Israel could then back the Palestinian state in Amman with a development plan along the lines of the Marshal Plan with the aim of developing Jordan

This is the Zionist-U.S. program. 'Arafat is now a partner to this program. 'Arafat speaks of the Palestinian state but this is a kind of camouflage, a kind of deception. His target is Amman.

No doubt, this U.S.-Zionist conspiracy is very tempting. It is a sugar-coated tablet. These ideas are aimed in the long run—from 10 to 15 years—at emptying the West Bank and the Gaza Strip of their population and making the River Jordan the natural border between the Palestinian state and the purely Zionist state. I must make another remark: So far, the Zionist enemy has not officially announced in the Knesset the annexation of the West Bank and Gaza. However, they announced the annexation of the Golan Heights after this territory was emptied of its population. Now Shamir, Sharon, Rabin, and others are in agreement that since the world is enthusiastic about the Palestinians, and feels that the Palestinians should have a homeland and rights, then let the Palestinians go to Amman and they will help them in this direction. We have definite information that 'Arafat has become a partner to this game.

Some of those who are close to 'Arafat play up this idea, saying why not establish a homeland in Jordan and in Amman and gather our people? Later, we will jump in the direction of Palestine after gathering our forces and mustering our will. It seems as if 'Arafat and his men consider themselves the controllers of this game.

[Correspondent] My last question is this: Your remarks have given me the impression that the Soviets have a role to play in this international concoction. Your previous statements about the Soviets created a great uproar. What about this?

[Jibril] No doubt, we in the front, and as a Palestinian, Arab, and Islamic people, are greatly disappointed with the new Soviet policy. We are not afraid to talk about it. We in the front believe that your true friend is the one who is sincere to you and not the one who merely says he believes what you say. We are very sad because of certain Soviet positions on the Palestinian cause and moves toward Soviet-Zionist rapprochement. We cannot view with satisfaction the dissolution of the Soviet society for resisting Zionism, which was established on the basis of the UN General Assembly resolution that regards Zionism as a

racist movement. We cannot rest when we see the continuous attempts to polish the images of Zionism and Israel, making them appear humanitarian and proper. The Soviet media exaggerated the value and size of the medical assistance that the Zionist entity extended during the earthquake and disasters in Armenia and the Urals with the aim of giving the Soviet people the impression that Israel is not the enemy of peoples. We can now see thousands of Jews leaving the Soviet Union with the best part of them going to Palestine. They number about 50,000. The level of tourism between the USSR and the Zionist entity reached 16,000 tourists.

All these factors prompt us to break our silence. We find these stands strange and believe that the USSR has deviated from Marxist-Leninist principles. How can it approve of the emigration of Soviet Jews at our expense? We cannot tolerate this, we cannot put up with it because the human element is more powerful than weapons. The Zionist entity considers the human element as its problem because its life lies in the Jewish emigration to Palestine. Therefore, it devotes all of its resources to this end.

For a long time we have regarded—and we still do—the USSR as the Arabs' friend and ally. We have regarded the USSR as a great superpower. We find it strange that the USSR should submit to U.S.-Zionist blackmail in this connection. We earnestly hope that the Soviet leadership will reconsider the important and serious issue of Soviet emigration.

We have never expected the Soviets to come and fight with us. Indeed, we regard the liberation of Palestine as a national, pan-Arab, and Islamic duty. However, if hundreds of thousands of Soviet Jews are allowed to emigrate and settle in the West Bank and Gaza and if the fighting between the enemy and ourselves is based on a war between the Jews and Muslims, then we tell the Soviet Union that they should open the way for the Muslims in the Islamic republics of Central Asia to come and fight at our side. We are aware that tens of thousands of them cannot wait to come and fight for the liberation of Palestine. The Soviet Union should either open the door wide for both the Jews and Muslims or close it in the face of both. Our Soviet comrades should understand our feelings and realize how sensitive this issue is for us.

I would like to add that as Palestinians, and from the time of the Balfour Declaration in 1917 until 1947, our fathers fought the British in Palestine. We did not fight the Jews until 1947; that is, 30 years after the Balfour Declaration—beginning with the Fu'ad Hijazi uprising and ending with the al-Qassam rebellion. We fought the British because of British encouragement of Jewish emigration to Palestine. The fight against the British stopped when the White Paper was issued before World War II. This White Paper stipulated stopping Jewish emigration to appease the Arabs. The British reneged on this paper following World War II.

We tell our Soviet brothers: You must realize this fact. We are your friends and will never stab you in the back. We regard you as the hope of all the peoples of the world. Therefore, we expect of the Soviet leadership to issue their own white paper to stop Jewish emigration. We earnestly hope that our Soviet comrades will give us the opportunity to discuss this issue in the Soviet media so that the Soviet masses can make their own judgment in view of the fact that the Soviet people are living in the age of perestroyka and glasnost, which is benefiting the Jews who have found ample opportunity to voice their opinions in the Soviet media.

Egypt

'Arafat Meets Mubarak To Review Developments

NC1109192289 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat tonight. Their talks dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

Leaves Cairo After Talks

NC1209053189 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0400 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat left Cairo last night after a short visit during which he held talks with President Husni Mubarak. The talks dealt with the latest developments in the Palestinian issue.

Joint Egyptian-Saudi Committee To Hold Talks

Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal Arrives

NC0809175189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1715 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal arrived in Cairo from Belgrade this evening on a 3-day official visit. Al-Faysal will lead his country's delegation to the meetings of the Egyptian-Saudi joint committee which will begin tomorrow, Saturday.

Arriving on the same plane was Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, who led the Egyptian delegation to the nonaligned foreign ministers meeting.

Saudi Finance Minister in Cairo

NC0909093189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2122 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 8 Sep (MENA)—Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy, arrived here tonight to take part in the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Saudi committee, which will open tomorrow in Cairo. [passage omitted]

Committee Meetings Begin

NC0909122589 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The Egyptian-Saudi higher joint committee held its first session at the Foreign Ministry this morning under the chairmanship of Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Also attending the meeting for the Egyptians were Eng Sulayman Mutawalli, minister of transport, communications, and maritime transport; Dr Yusri Mustafa, minister of economy; Dr Muhammad al-Razzaz, minister of finance; and Dr Maurice Makramallah, minister of state for international cooperation. Saudi Finance Minister Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi Communications Minister Husayn al-Mansuri, under secretaries of the concerned ministries in both countries, and private sector representatives also participated in the talks.

The two delegations are discussing ways to boost Egyptian-Saudi cooperation and to establish a number of projects in all fields.

Deputy Premier Welcomes Delegation

NC0909185989 Cairo MENA in English 1306 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sept 9 (MENA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Dr Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid today welcomed Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and his accompanying delegation currently visiting here to participate in the meetings of the Egyptian-Saudi commission that started here today.

Addressing the first session of the aforementioned commission, Dr 'Abd-al-Majid said that it was one of the results of the historic visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Egypt in March.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed hope that this commission would by the directives of President Husni Mubarak and King Fahd achieve its aims.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid expressed appreciation to the public and private sectors for their basic roles in the building process and development of cooperation between the two countries.

As for the situation in Lebanon, 'Abd-al-Majid expressed appreciation of the role of the Arab Tripartite Committee on the Lebanese crisis.

He also expressed hope that the committee would pursue its efforts.

He hailed Egyptian-Saudi cooperation and coordination during the ninth nonaligned summit concluded yesterday in Belgrade describing this cooperation as representing a model to be followed by other countries.

Saudi Prince Sa'ud Speaks

NC0909192189 Cairo MENA in English 1348 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, Sept 9 (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said the Egyptian-Saudi commission is one of the fruits of the visit of King Fahd of Saudi Arabia to Egypt in March.

At the outset of the inaugural session of the Egyptian-Saudi commission, Prince Sa'ud affirmed that the Arab and international reality requires consolidating integration and cooperation between the two countries.

In his address, he paid tribute to the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories.

He condemned in this respect Israeli practices, affirming the necessity of the Palestinians' recovery of their national rights including their right to self-determination and to set up their independent state.

Prince Sa'ud referred to efforts exerted by the Arab Tripartite Committee for putting an end to the deteriorating situation in Lebanon, calling on various parties to resort to reason and unify their word for the Lebanon's independence and territorial integrity.

On the situation in the Gulf, Prince Sa'ud expressed hope that peace and security would be maintained in the area and that all prisoners of war of both sides would be released.

On the Afro-Arab cooperation level, Prince Sa'ud expressed confidence that President Mubarak's chairmanship of the Organisation of African Unity and Egypt's return to play its distinguished role in the Arab area would contribute to consolidate Afro-Arab cooperation.

On Egytian-Saudi cooperation, Prince Sa'ud referred to the distinguished and important role that the businessmen could play for widening and fostering joint cooperation.

Committee Discusses Regional Issues

LD0909204989 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1800 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The meetings of the Saudi-Egyptian joint committee chaired by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister on the Saudi side, and His Excellency the Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid on the Egyptian side, began in Cairo today.

His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal expressed his thanks for the good welcome he was accorded during his Egyptian visit. He noted appreciation for the good arangements for the meetings of the Saudi-Egyptian higher joint committee.

At the opening of the committee meeting, his highness said that the leaders of the two countries gave a special importance to the bilateral relations which come within the framework of these meetings. He pointed to the common assets past and present, explaining that forming the committee was one of the fruits of the visits of the custodian of the two Holy Mosques, King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, to his second homeland Egypt at the end of March.

His Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the Arab and international reality requires strengthening solidarity and cooperation between the Kingdom and Egypt. In his speech he saluted the Palestinian uprising, denounced Israeli practices, and called for the restoration of Palestinian people's rights and self-determination and the establishment of their independent state on their own soil.

Concerning the Lebanese situation, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the tripartite committee set up by the Arab summit conference at Casablanca will resume its work for putting an end to the deteriorating conditions in Lebanon. He appealed to the sides in the conflict to listen to the call of reason and unite ranks for the sake of underlining Lebanon's independence and integrity of its soil.

His royal highness the foreign minister said that the meeting of the foreign ministers of the committee which will be held on Wednesday in Jeddah seeks to look into the future steps which the committee can take along the road to the joint Arab solution to the Lebanese problem.

On conditions in the Gulf, his royal highness expressed hope that peace will reign and prisoners will be released.

Mubarak Receives Prince Sa'ud

NC1009141189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak received this afternoon Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. The meeting was attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

The Saudi foreign minister arrived in Cairo on Friday on a 4-day visit to Egypt.

Joint Communique Issued

NC1009192489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1645 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Egypt and Saudi Arabia today expressed their great satisfaction with the tripartite Arab committee's statement to hold a ministerial meeting in Jedda this week to assess the situation and possibile action. The committee's decision was made in response to appeals from various Lebanese, Arab, and international parties.

In a joint communique issued at the end of the joint Egyptian-Saudi committee meetings today, the two sides emphasized that the Arab leaders will continue to assist Lebanon in weathering its current ordeal. The two sides urged all sides to stop fighting now that it has become clear to everyone that the Lebanese crisis can only be solved through peaceful, constructive dialogue.

The communique notes that Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal discussed in-depth Arab, Islamic, international, and African issues of mutual concern. The two ministers pointed in particular to the full cooperation and coordination demonstrated by the two countries' delegations over these issues during the ninth nonaligned summit conference in Belgrade.

The Egyptian and Saudi sides noted with satisfaction that the Palestinian issue continues to gain more international support and sympathy. In this regard, the two

sides reiterated their commitment to the resolution adopted by the Casablanca summit in May on the Palestinian problem.

The two sides reemphasized that convening an international peace conference under UN auspices and with the participation of the Security Council's permanent members and all parties concerned in the conflict, and including the PLO on equal footing, represents the formula accepted by the international community for achieving a just peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

The two sides hope that the existing cease-fire between Iraq and Iran will turn to a real peace based on solid foundations to guarantee the security and stability in the region that would enable both Iraq and Iran to marshal their resources for development and reconstruction. The two sides affirmed their support and backing for the efforts being made by the UN secretary general to fully implement Security Council Resolution 598.

The Saudi side praised the efforts made by President Mubarak, in his capacity as the OAU chairman, to bolster Arab-African cooperation. The Saudi side expressed the hope that his excellency's efforts will produce successful results in the interest of the African and Arab peoples.

The two sides reviewed developments on Afghanistan, welcoming the evacuation of foreign troops from that country. This step, they added, represents a prelude toward reaching a final solution to the existing problem in a nonaligned fraternal Islamic state. The Egyptian and Saudi sides expressed the hope that the struggle being waged by the Afghan mujahidin will enable them to achieve their legitimate objectives and preserve Afghanistan's independence and national unity far from any foreign intervention. This would maintain its international position as a nonaligned independent state enjoying its deeply rooted Islamic character. The two sides noted with satisfaction the fact that the mujahidin have occupied Afghanistan's chair in the Islamic Conference Organization.

Regarding economic, trade, and investment cooperation fields between the two countries, the minister of finance and national economy and the minister of economy and foreign trade initialed the framework agreement for technical, investment, trade, and economic cooperation between the two countries. The broad lines of the agreement had been discussed previously. The two sides affirmed that they will continue to discuss this plan and complete the necessary procedures for ratification.

In the field of trade exchange, the two sides expressed the desire to try all ways to expand trade exchange and waive all hurdles impeding its achievement. The two sides stressed the importance of setting up fairs in the two countries and exchanging visits by trade and industrial delegations. In this regard, businessmen from both countries agreed to set up an Egyptian-Saudi business council. The Egyptian and Saudi sides bless this step, expressing their hope that this council will contribute toward giving a momentum to the process of the trade, industrial, and investment cooperation between the two countries. The two sides in the joint committee decided to invite the businessmen to play a permanent role in the activities of the joint committee.

In the field of industrial cooperation, the two sides agreed to promote their cooperation in the field of mineral, engineering, and mining projects. They also welcomed the encouragement of cooperation in the field of exchange of technical expertise and training.

While discussing the field of investment, the two sides reviewed the laws and regulations of investment in the two countries which include privileges, tax, and customs exemptions, guarantees, and incentives which encourage investment and create the suitable atmosphere for setting up the joint investment companies.

The Egyptian side highly praised the Saudi Development Fund's contribution in financing a number of vital development projects in Egypt. The Egyptian side also lauded the Saudi Development Fund's future constructive role.

In the field of technical and scientific cooperation, the two sides agreed to exchange expertise, delegations, and information in the various domains of agriculture, veterinary medicine, land reclamation, and means to combat locusts, and to exchange seeds and hold joint scientific research projects. The two sides also agreed to strengthen the technical and scientific cooperation between the Egyptian Scientific Research Ministry and King 'Abd al-'Aziz complex for science and technology.

Regarding cooperation in the field of electricity and energy, the two sides consider the memorandum of understanding signed in Cairo on 13 June 1988 by the Egyptian and Saudi ministers of industry and electricity to be the basis for the two sides' cooperation.

In the field of manpower, the two sides agreed to establish technical cooperation between the Egyptian Ministry of Manpower and Training and the Social Affairs Ministry and the Saudi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs that will include the exchange of expertise, specialists, and training programs; the exchange of data, research, books, published material, information, legislation, and available statistics; and the holding of seminars and studies in the various fields of labor, such as vocational training, use of labor, vocational health and safety, industrial security, and the rehabilitation of the handicapped and disabled. A periodic review and assessment of the existing cooperation in these fields and the means of developing it should be carried out within the framework of the joint committee.

In the cultural and educational fields, the two sides studied the means of activating the cultural agreement concluded by the two countries on 9 April 1972. They agreed to prepare an annual program for that purpose. This program includes the exchange of visits by members of the faculties in universities and institutes and the

exchange of visits by educational delegations and the establishment of cooperation between the two countries' universities and institutes of higher education.

The two sides also agreed to encourage cooperation between the Saudi Ministry of Education and its Egyptian counterpart, including the exchange of books and school curricula. The two sides also encouraged and supported the two ministries' continued cooperation in sending teachers and technicians to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

In the field of transport, communications, and maritime transport, the two sides continued discussion of the issue of setting up a land route between Saudi Arabia and Egypt. They noted that the two countries should study this matter which will be reviewed in light of the result of these studies. Regarding the issue of linking the two countries by ferries between Nuwaybi' and Haql, Egypt gave Saudi Arabia the draft project prepared by the Cairo Saudi Bank for studying and reviewing. The two sides also recommended the operation of a maritime line between the Saudi port of Daba and the Egyptian port of Safajah. They also recommended a study for concluding two executive agreements on land transport of passengers and goods and on maritime transport and that this study should be prepared before the next meeting of the joint committee for bilateral cooperation.

The two sides recommended the importance of cooperation in the field of scientific training in the fields of land and sea transport, roads, and railroads. They agreed on the importance of coordination when attending international conferences and organizations and the exchange of research and data. The two sides also agreed to hold seminars and to exchange expertise in the sphere of building and maintaining roads and bridges. The two sides also proposed to look at setting up land routes between their two countries and at letting the private sectors in the two countries set up joint companies for transport on land routes.

The Saudi side expressed deep gratitude and appreciation for all the welcome and honor it received in the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Joint News Conference Held

NC1009185989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1710 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal has affirmed that the triptartite committee on Lebanon is resuming its meetings following Lebanese, international, and Arab, including Syrian, appeals. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that the committee will evaluate the situation in Lebanon during its meeting in Jeddah this week.

At a joint news conference with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, Egyptian deputy prime minister and foreign minister, Prince Sa'ud praised Egyptian-Saudi relations. He said that these relations are currently witnessing further consolidation, mutual understanding, coordination, and agreement in positions. This will help enrich joint Arab action.

Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted the importance of the Arab foreign ministers meetings in Tunis on Tuesday, especially as they come prior to the regular session of the UN General Assembly. He affirmed that the Palestinian issue will top the agenda of the foreign ministers meeting in Tunis. Dr 'Abd-al-Majid noted that the positions of all the Arab states on this issue are clear. They support the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

At the end of the news conference, Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal praised the profound welcome he and the delegation accompanying him have received in their second country, Egypt. He also praised President Mubarak's efforts in serving Arab, African, and international causes. The Saudi foreign minister expressed the hope that the results of the meetings of the joint committee would satisfy the aspirations of the leaders and peoples of the two fraternal countries.

Saudi Ministers Depart Cairo

NC1009180389 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1735 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal left Cairo this evening following a 3-day visit during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak. Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal chaired his country's delegation at the meetings of the joint Egyptian-Saudi committee which ended today.

Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, Saudi minister of finance and national economy, and Husayn Mansuri, minister of communications, also left Cairo after attending the committee's meetings.

Friendship Treaty Signed With Guinea-Bissau

NC1009181589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1145 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—The provisions of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty between Egypt and Guinea-Bissau have been approved and Presidents Husni Mubarak and Joao Bernardo will sign the treaty tomorrow, Monday. .

The two sides affirmed in the treaty their strong desire to strengthen relations between the two countries in the various areas, to endeavor to consolidate peace in Africa and the world, and to resolve peacefully differences that might crop up among African states.

The treaty will be ratified in accordance with the constitutional procedures in both countries and will go into effect once the instruments of ratification have been exchanged.

The following is the text of the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty signed between Egypt and Guinea-Bissau in Cairo today:

The Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Government of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, having expressed their common desire to promote and strengthen the existing relations of friendship and brotherhood and to boost cooperation between the two countries in the economic, cultural, scientific, and technical domains; and having emphasized their strong commitment to the principles and objectives of the UN Charter and the OAU Charter as a contribution on their part to alleviating tension in the world and building an atmosphere of confidence between countries as this would help promote international cooperation and progress of mankind, decided to sign the following agreement, called hereafter the Friendship and Cooperation Treaty:

Article I. The two contracting sides voiced their strong desire to bolster and promote friendship, brotherhood, and solidarity between the two countries and to intensify their efforts to protect their mutual interests.

Artcile II. The two contracting sides pledge to contribute toward consolidating peace in Africa and the world and to endeavor to resolve peacefully the differences that might crop up between the African states.

Article III. The two contracting sides emphasize their determination to help the entire African Continent speed up its goal of obtaining complete independence and wiping out apartheid and all forms of discrimination in Africa.

Article IV. The two contracting sides affirm their commitment to promoting cooperation between the African states in speeding up the achievement of economic development and social progress in Africa.

Article V. The two contracting sides pledge to work to liberate Africa and to promote sound, sincere cooperation between the African Continent and outside world.

Article VI. The two contracting sides reiterate their commitment to strengthen and develop the cooperation between them, particularly in the agricultural, cultural, scientific, technical, transport, and communications areas in order to achieve a better understanding between their peoples and guarantee the independence of their two states.

Article VII. The two contracting sides voice their support for cooperation between the various political, economic, social, and cultural institutions as well as between the woman and youth movements in the two countries. The two sides encourage the exchange of expertise and information in all fields over which an agreement is reached regarding the importance of their exchange.

Article VIII. Within the framework of applying the provisions of this treaty and should the need arise, the two contracting sides can sign agreements and protocols in various spheres.

Article IX. The treaty will be in force indefinitely unless either side requests its cancellation in writing. The treaty will be considered null and void 6 months after the date of notification.

This treaty will be ratified according to the constitutional procedures in both countries and will go into effect once the instruments of ratification have been exchanged.

Article X. The two governments will keep a copy of this treaty at the UN General Secretariat and the OAU General Secretariat.

Joint Communique Issued

NC1009152289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1215 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—Egypt and Guinea-Bissau have reiterated their support for the Palestinian people's national rights and for their right to self-determination. They expressed their conviction that a just and lasting peace cannot be established in the Middle East without respect for these national rights and Israel's return of all the territories occupied since 1967. [passage omitted]

This came in a joint communique issued this afternoon on the visit by Guinea-Bissau President Joao Bernardo Vieira to Egypt from 9 to 11 September. [passage omitted]

Following is the text of the joint communique:

At the invitation of President Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, General Joao Bernardo Vieira, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau, paid an official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 9 to 11 September 1989.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak held a series of talks with President Joao Bernarddo Vieira. In these talks the two presidents underlined their determination to strengthen the ties of friendship and solidarity between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. They praised the excellent level of relations between the two countries and reiterated their political desire to exert all efforts to intensify and diversify the two countries' cooperation in all fields. In this respect, they signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation between the Arab Republic of Egypt and the Republic of Guinea-Bissau and an agreement to set up a joint committee for bilateral cooperation.

The two presidents also reviewed the principal African and international problems. They expressed their satisfaction with the identity of their views on these problems. The two presidents also reiterated their commitment to OAU principles and objectives and underlined their commitment to support this regional organization which represents a framework for African joint action and solidarity.

The two presidents comprehensively discussed the situation in South Africa. They strongly condemned the racist and inhuman apartheid policy followed by the ruling regime in South Africa in Pretoria. They expressed an unshakable determination and a firm will to continue to support the South African people's struggle against racial discrimination.

The two presidents expressed their full support for Namibia's independence in accordance with Security Council Resolution 435 of 1978. They called on the parties who signed the 22 December 1988 agreement to fulfill all their commitments with goodwill as stipulated in this agreement. They reiterated their full support for the South West African People's Organization at this critical stage in its national struggle.

The two presidents also expressed appreciation for the efforts made by the Angolan Government to achieve national reconciliation and establish stability and peace in Angola. They also expressed their appreciation for the praiseworthy efforts of the Mozambican Government to achieve national reconciliation and restore stability and peace to Mozambique.

The two presidents reviewed with particular interest the critical economic situation in Africa. They stressed the need for implementing the program of African priorities for economic revival which was approved by the OAU's 21st summit and also the UN program for economic revival and development in Africa for the period 1986-90. They expressed their belief that the alternative African framework for structural changes for revival and socioeconomic changes is an important one that could help the African countries, individually and collectively, to draw up national programs that combine changes, growth, and economic development.

They appealed to the international community to develop as soon as possible a more comprehensive strategy to tackle all aspects of the African debt problem and the official and commercial loans on a constant and organized basis. They also expressed their full support for holding an international conference to tackle Africa's foreign debts.

Regarding the Middle East problem, the two presidents reiterated their support for the Palestinian people's national rights, particularly their right to self-determination. They expressed their conviction that a just and lasting peace can be established in this region only on the basis of respect for these national rights and Israel's return of all the territories occupied since June 1967. The two presidents stressed that an international conference for peace in the Middle East under UN auspices and in accordance with Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and with the participation of all the concerned parties, including the PLO, offers the best opportunity for reaching a peaceful, just, and lasting settlement for this problem.

Regarding Arab-African cooperation in which the two countries have special interest, the two presidents reiterated their commitment to support solidarity and cooperation between the Africans and the Arabs who are bound together by the ties of history, civilization, and common hope of a better future for all the African and Arab peoples.

The two presidents also reiterated their belief in the Nonaligned Movement and their pledge to work to achieve its aims and enhance its ideals. In this respect, they praised the results of the ninth summit of the Nonaligned Movement which was held in Belgrade from 4 to 7 September 1989. They declared their intention to continue their work to implement its final statement.

The two presidents also welcomed the rapprochement between the two superpowers and stressed that detente should be worldwide, comprehensive, and open to all countries in order to be permanent. They reiterated the importance of maintaining the trend toward the use of peaceful means to resolve existing political conflicts in the international arena.

The two presidents also expressed hope that the will that has brought about the current atmosphere of detente in international political relations will extend to include the economic sphere so as to set up an international economic order that is more just for all countries, particularly the Third World countries that are presently facing dangers threatening their development plans.

The two presidents praised the support of the Nonaligned Movement in Belgrade for the initiative taken in Paris in July 1989 by the presidents of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Senegal, Venezuela, and the Indian prime minister to start a new round of regular consultations at the summit level between the advanced countries and the developing ones on the economic and world environment issues.

President Gen Joao Bernardo Vieira expressed his and his delegation's thanks and appreciation for the fraternal and cordial welcome from the Arab Republic of Egypt.

His Excellency invited President Muhammad Husni Mubarak to pay an official visit to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. The president accepted this invitation and its date will be set later through diplomatic channels.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Returns From Nonaligned Summit

EA0809134289 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council and prime minister, has returned after leading the Sudanese delegation to the

ninth summit of nonaligned states in Belgrade. On arriving at Khartoum Airport, he made the following statements to the media:

[Begin recording] [Al-Bashir] Praise be to God, all of them were positive in which we [word indistinct] the conditions in Sudan. (?We had) contacts on cooperation. In all these contacts it was agreed to exchange delegations in order to cement and expand relations. Some agreements (?were in) the economic sphere [word indistinct].

[Correspondent] You received a message from Chadian President Hissein Habre, which was conveyed to your excellent [words indistinct] the Chadian foreign minister. It deals with the latest developments in the Chadian political arena in addition to the Chadian-Libyan agreement through Algerian mediation. What are the repercussions of that on the (?Sudanese stand)?

[Al-Bashir] Naturally, we are very interested in conditions in the region and stability in the region: solving the problems that exist, for example, between Chad and Libya is definitely a major contribution to the achievement of stability in the region [words indistinct]. We made a positive move in this. [passage indistinct]. There are consultations (?between us) aimed at reaching a final solution, God willing, to the issues (?submitted).

[Correspondent] What are the developments in the consultations between Sudan and Ethiopia in the light of your excellency's meeting with Ethiopia's prime minister [words indistinct]?

[Al-Bashir] We met within the framework of the (?strong) cooperation between the two countries, on improving the relations between (?us) and our neighbors and on the possibility of giving an impetus to negotiations now going on between the Ethiopians and Eritreans and between the government in Sudan and the rebels.

[Correspondent] Sudan's speech was clear (?with regard to) all local and world events [words indistinct] you received greetings from the leaders of the delegations. Please evaluate for us the work of this conference.

[Al-Bashir] By all standards it can be regarded as a successful conference. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent] Your excellency, lieutenant general: To what extent has Sudan's revolution benefited from the meetings on the sidelines of the conference and to what extent was Sudan's role effective inside the corridors of the conference?

[Al-Bashir] Naturally, we benefited in that we explained to the people what was happening in Sudan. They were aware of what was going on in Sudan before the revolution. We explained to them the measures taken after the revolution and the successes achieved and the aims (?we are seeking) to achieve. Many of these states welcomed the change that occurred in Sudan and they expressed a very great readiness to assist the revolution to overcome the obstacles before it and to advance. We had a role in that (?we managed) to meet some delegations with which we basically had no close relations. Through our continual explanation of the Sudanese problem, the African issue and the Arab issue, we managed to create a new face for Sudan.

[Correspondent] Your excellency, lieutenant general, a last question. There is an accusation that the movement—the Nonaligned Movement—has become very weak, emaciated. To what extent can we conclude that through the conference the movement is recovering its strength and its large role in the international arena?

[Al-Bashir] Perhaps the international detente that has occurred and the end of the Cold War led people to feel that the role of the Nonaligned Movement had become weak. But this can never be. The economic crisis from which most of the aligned states are suffering may renew the vitality and the importance of the bloc of the Nonaligned Movement so that it helps in pressuring the advanced states [words indistinct] the poor states [words indistinct] cooperation among Nonaligned states so that the poor and less-developed states may be able to transcend this critical stage. Thanks.

Al-Bashir Addresses Peace Committee 9 Sep

AB0609212789 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, president of the NSRCC [National Salvation Revolution Command Council], addresses at 0900 next Saturday [9 September] morning at the Friendship Hall in Khartoum the opening session of the steering committee of the expanded National Conference for the Administration of the National Dialogue on Peace in the Sudan. Colonel PSC [passed staff college] Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, the RCC member and the steering committee's chairman, said that the conference is destined to be a universal dialogue gathering in which all people of the Sudan will participate to reach a unified and (?concerted) view of issues of concern to the nation.

He said that the resolutions with which the conference will come out will lead to the next stage of the phase of the path of peace. He said [words indistinct] for the committee membership, he went on to say that either distinguished contributions to the southern issues were of national [word indistinct] whether from the southern or northern regions. The national dialogue steering committee shall raise its final report within a period of 1 month to the RCC.

Committee on Peace Issues Established

EA0609085589 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 5 Sep 89

["Text" of 5 September decree on the formation of a committee to conduct a national dialogue on peace issues, signed by Brigadier al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, deputy chairman of the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council]

[Text] In the name of the people and the Armed Forces, the National Salvation Revolutionary Command Council [NSRCC] decrees:

1. Formation of a committee to conduct a national dialogue on issues of peace. Its headquarters will be in Khartoum.

2. The terms of reference of the committee:
a. Organization and preparation of seminars for dialogue on the issues of peace in Sudan with the objective of reaching a comprehensive national vision.
b. Preparation of memoranda on subjects germane to the issue of peace; presentation of options and recommendations on this.
c. Preparation of a plan for an international and local campaign to introduce the issue and its comprehensive thesis.

3. The committee can:
a. Receive any written proposals from citizens who are not its members on the question of peace.
b. Form subcommittees to discharge their tasks.

4. The committee shall submit its final report within 6 weeks from the time it embarks on its work.

5. Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, member of the NSRCC, is hereby appointed chairman of the committee and Colonel Hasan Muhammad Dahawi is appointed rapporteur general of the committee.

6. The following are hereby appointed members of the committee: Dr al-Juzuli Daf'Allah; Retired Lieutenant General Joseph Lagu; Abu Ammina Hamid; Abu 'Ali Majdhub Abu 'Ali; Abel Alier; Ahmad al-Radi Jabir; Ahmad Zayn al-Abidin; Ahmad 'Abd-al-Halim; (Arop Acher); Isaiah Kulang; Father Ezekiel Kuot Bior; al-Tijani al-Karib; Aldo Ajo Deng; Dr al-Tayyib Zayn al-Abdidin; al-Tayyib Muhammad al- Tayyib; Amin Isma'il; Angelo Beda; (Adil Ishaq); Angelo Kual; (Angelo Leth); Angelo Yor; Bakhitan Amin Isma'il; (Jadallah Khamsin Subayli); Joseph James Tombura; (Joseph Lasu Bali); John Bor; Hasan 'Uthman Rizq; Hasan Kindah Tarbush; Dr Khalid Yaji; Khidr al-Siddiq; Sirr al-Khatim al-Khalifah; Surur Ramli; Sa'id 'Abdullah al-Sayyid; Sa'id Mirghani Hammur; Sulayman Sid Ahmad; Dr Sayyid Hamid Hirayz; Salah al-Din Muhammad al-Fadl; Salah Muhammad Ibrahim; ('Abd-al-Basit Saddarak); 'Abdullah Adam Khatir; Dr 'Abdullah Idris; Dr 'Abdullah 'Ali Ibrahim; Prof 'Abd-al-Rahman Abu Zayd; Dr 'Abd-al-Rahim 'Ali; Prof 'Abd-al-Al 'Abdullah; Dr 'Abd-al-Sami 'Umar; Retired Major General 'Uthman 'Abdullah; Alawiyyah 'Abd-al-Farraj; 'Ali Tamim Fartak; Prof 'Umar Billayl; Awatif 'Uthman; Dr Raji Salah al-Din; Fadl al-Sid 'Abd-al-Qadir; Philip Obang; Retired Major General Fadlallah Hammad; Matthew Obur Ayang; Michael Mario; Prof Muhammad Ibrahim Abu Salim; Muhammad al-Hasan Ahmad; Muhammad al-Sayyid Sallam; Muhammad Shu'lah al-Ahmar; Muhammad Tahir Hamad; Prof Muhammad 'Umar Bashir; Dr Muhamad Nur al-Din al-Tahir; Muhammad Yusuf Mudawwi; Mahmud Bashir Jamma; Prof Mahmud Musa Mahmud; Prof Muddathir 'Abd-al-Rrahim; Retired Brigadier Muzammil Sulayman Ghandur; Prof Mirghani 'Abd-al-Al Hammur; Mary Yac; Lawrence Modi Tombe; Dr Lawrence Wol; Prof Hashim Ubayd; Dr Hunud Abiyyah Kodok; Yohannes Bol de Manyiel; and Prof Yusuf Fadl Hasan.

Issued under my signature,
4th Safar 1410 A.H. corresponding to 5 September 1989,
By my order,
the NSRCC,
Brig al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih,
Deputy chairman of the NSRCC

Report Traces Progress of Government-SPLM Contacts

JN0809181189 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic 6 Sep 89 p 2

[Report by Yusuf al-Sharif]

[Excerpts] Observers have assessed the recent first Addis Ababa meeting between delegations of Sudan's national salvation revolution and the Sudanese People's Liberation Movement [SPLM] as a failure and a test of intentions in light of a mutual commitment to pursue their dialogue to promote a settlement of the problem in the south.

While General 'Umar al-Bashir ascribed the failure to propel the peace process forward to the inclusion of communist and separatist and extremist elements in the SPLM's team, Colonel John Garang contended that the salvation revolution's delegation lacked an overall vision of a solution to the problem of the south.

In fairness to them, it must be said that the leaders of the national salvation revolution were politically wrong to reject, following the 30 June coup, all the prior agreements on a settlement of the southern Sudan problem to which all the disbanded parties and the SPLM had committed themselves, on the grounds that the latter had been victims of intrigue and political maneuvers and therefore they alone held the key to the right solution by virtue of a comradeship-of-arms with the rebels. They have insisted that the dialogue between the two sides should get under way without preconditions.

Undoubtedly, this attitude by the salvation revolution leaders has called into question their seriousness and ability to come up with an alternative solution to the one on which consensus was reached by the uprising forces

represented in the "Kokodam" agreement and the political forces that voted unanimously for the peace accord signed by Muhammad 'Uthman al-Mirghani and John Garang last November during the third democratic experiment.

It is no secret that Col Garang is now considering the possibility of proclaiming a new Sudanese government in the south on the argument that the Khartoum government does not represent all the Sudanese. It is now certain that the SPLM has a distinctive flag ready to be flown by this government.

AL-AHALI sources further point out that political and trade union forces opposed to the military regime have suspended their contacts and coordination with John Garang, pending the emergence of a clear picture regarding his reported intention to declare a new government in the south.

The dialogue among the opposition forces is known to have produced a provisional agreement on an expected political program in Sudan once the military system of government comes to an end within the framework a new formula allowing for the participation of the SPLM and the Armed Forces in government and excluding all the forces and elements that were involved in political and economic corruption and who were hostile to peace and trade unions during the third democratic experiment—an apparent reference to the National Islamic Front.

It is no secret that the U.S. Embassy in Khartoum picked up a coded message sent from Tehran to pro-Iranian Islamic elements in Sudan ordering a quick elimination of Gen 'Umar al-Bashir for allegedly turning against the declaration of an Islamic government. [passage omitted]

AL-AHALI can affirm that there have recently been combined Egyptian-Ethiopian efforts to remove the most serious impediments to the Revolutionary Council members and the rebels seated at the conference table to search for peace.

The coming days are loaded with surprises against the backdrop of an expected meeting between Gen al-Bashir and John Garang in the second stage of dialogue between delegations from the salvation revolution and the SPLM to sign a final blueprint for peace in the south. Given the critical and delicate nature of the current stage, it is important to withhold judgment and take a cautious wait-and-see attitude.

Officials Discuss 'Southern Problem'

EA0609105689 Omdurman Domestic Service in English 1958 GMT 5 Sep 89

[Text] The roving ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Mr Joseph Lagu, underlined the necessity of the political negotiation on how to solve the problems of the country and specially the southern problem. He said that the current period necessitates the national personalities to work hard for achieving peace in the country. Mr Lagu added that man has to learn from the history. So, the Sudanese have to learn from their past experiences how to avoid the past mistakes through unity and working together for developing their country.

This came in a meeting yesterday at the People's Armed Forces Officers Club on the peace issue.

Earlier, the member of the RCC [Revolutionary Command Council] Brigadier Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, reviewed the steps taken by government to solve the southern problem completely through dialogue and negotiation. He assured that the top priorities of the revolution are to achieve peace in the country. Brig Khalifah pointed to the last meeting the government and the People's Movement, as the revolution was serious to find a solution to the problem.

In a separate development, Dr Lawrence Wol assured the importance of power participation in which the citizens will have the chance to play their role, while Mr Ahmad 'Abd al-Halim reviewed the causes of the southern problem. He urged the citizens to participate and exchange their views on the issue. The occasion was attended by members of the RCC, Brigadier 'Uthman Ahmad Hasan, Brig Dominic Kassiano, in addition to a group of the southerners and national personalities.

Kuwait

French Interior Minister Visits, Meets Leaders

KUNA Interviews Minister

LD0809200289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1650 GMT 8 Sep 89

[By Rula al-Zain]

[Text] Paris, Sept 8 (KUNA)—French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe applauded the Franco-Kuwaiti relations saying he hope a visit he will start to Kuwait later Friday would result in furthering their bilateral relations.

In an exclusive interview with KUNA on the eve of his visit to the Gulf Arab country, the first of its kind by a French minister of interior, Joxe described his country's relations with Kuwait as "friendly and deeply rooted in history...simply it has started when the country got its independence in 1961".

The French minister added that there is a wide scope for identical viewpoints (?in) the Franco-Kuwaiti relations. He, in this respect, recalled the amir's personal ties with former French presidents.

Joxe expressed happiness for being the first French interior minister ever to visit Kuwait and said, "We hope the visit would develop bilateral ties in all fields, particularly security, for our common interest".

He said that his visit to Kuwait is a working visit during which he is escorting a number of officials in charge of international cooperation in the field of security and police, "hence I count much importance on this kind of cooperation...often unknown".

The French minister highlighted his country's experience in this particular field, "as this fact is internationally known whether regarding protection of persons or places and the mechanism of maintaining order".

He asserted that "during the visit I will listen to the Kuwaiti officials and I shall see to the possibility of executing their orders since our cooperation with the Kuwaitis is not new as I had previously received a Kuwaiti delegation in 1988.... During the visit we shall continue our talks, reactivate the Kuwait projects and deepen our bilateral relations".

The French minister applauded the Kuwaiti stance vis-a-vis terrorism. He recalled a number of terrorist actions which targetted Kuwait in the last few years saying "the firmness the Kuwaiti authorities had displayed then has actually won our admiration". He expressed the belief that the Kuwaiti-French points of view regarding terrorism were identical.

Joxe, whose country presides over the current session of the European Community, said that there was a common will between the EEC countries and the Arab states to put an end to terrorist actions.

The French minister underlined the fact that all people have concluded that "blind and inhuman terrorist actions can in no way influence states' policies."

Concerning the situation in the Gulf area, the French minister of interior revealed optimism over the prospects of reaching a peaceful solution to the Iraqi-Iranian conflict particularly after reaching a ceasefire agreement between the warring troops of Iraq and Iran.

Joxe said "I believe a [word indistinct] will start and the relations between the Arab Gulf countries and Iran will return to normalcy".

The French minister, however, expressed appreciation for the Kuwaiti stance during the eight-year period of the Gulf war.

Responding to queries related to the 14-year old Lebanese crisis, the French minister commended efforts exerted by various parties to participate in solving this so far unsolved crisis.

He was referring to efforts made by Kuwait which had chaired an Arab League committee to help in the process of ending the civil war in Lebanon, efforts exerted by his own country in this respect, and the present endeavour by the Arab League Tripartite Committee.

Joxe added that results of those efforts could not be (?described) as "a failure or success," because they all have participated in the solution we aspire for and they reveal our willingness to avail an opportunity before the Lebanese to solve their dilemma regardless how complicated it was.

"The Lebanese people, actually all the categories of the Lebanese people, should bear their responsibilites in choosing their institutions and to enjoy sovereignty", stressed the French minister.

Replying to a question, Joxe said that he is not of the opinion that withdrawal of foreign troops from Lebanon would lead to chaos in the war-torn Arab country "because chaos exists there and to speak the least, the presence of foreign troops in the country did not prevent the state of chaos Lebanon has been experiencing."

Joxe Arrives for Talks

LD0809204689 Kuwait KUNA in English 1759 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 8 (KUNA)—French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe flew into Kuwait Friday evening on an official visit, the first of its kind by a French interior minister to the country.

He was received at the airport by the Kuwaiti minister of interior Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, the ministry's undersecretary and assistant undersecretaries.

The French minister is due to meet h.h. the amir, h.h. the crown prince and prime minister and the deputy premier and foreign minister Saturday morning.

He will have talks with his Kuwaiti counterpart Saturday evening on bilateral relations and a number of security issues of common concern.

Shaykh Salim told reporters that numerous issues of mutual concern will be discussed with Joxe and noted that the latter's visit had preceded the trip of h.h. the amir to France.

The minister underscored that France had covered major strides in police sciences and enjoyed experience in fighting terrorism, outlaws, drugs and other areas which Kuwait can benefit from.

Shaykh Salim expressed confidence that the French interior minister and his companions will get acquainted with a lot of useful things here in Kuwait that could be of benefit for them in France.

On the questions of common interest, Shaykh Salim said that they include such fateful issues to the whole world as combatting all forms of terrorism whether hijacking planes or kidnapping hostages, usurping lands, or drugs and their negative effects on humanity, or other spheres such as preserving peace and respecting international laws.

Foreign Minister Meets Joxe

LD0909161389 Kuwait KUNA in English 1337 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 9 (KUNA)—Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad met at his office Saturday with visiting French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe and the accompanying delegation.

Present at the meeting were: Interior Minister Shaykh Salim al-Sabah, Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Sulayman Majid al-Shahin, other senior officials from the ministry and Director General of the Public Administration for Security of Installations and Special Forces Brigadier Yusef al-Mishari.

The French ambassador to Kuwait Jean Bellivier also took part in the meeting.

Shaykh al-Sabah told reporters that the encounter centred on bilateral relations and the situation in Lebanon and the Middle East.

He added that talks between the French minister and his Kuwaiti counterpart would tackle strengthening of bilateral cooperation in the fields of social security and combating of terrorism and drugs trafficking.

Security Accord Signed

LD1109104989 Kuwait KUNA in English 0905 GMT 11 Sep 89

[By Jassim Matar]

[Text] Kuwait, Sept 11 (-) [dateline as received]—Kuwait and France on Monday [11 September] signed a security cooperation agreement under which the two sides would exchange expertise in civil defense and combatting terrorism and drug trafficking.

The accord crowned three-day visit here by French Interior Minister Pierre Joxe who left Kuwait this morning.

It was signed by Joxe and Kuwaiti Interior Minister Shakh Salim al-Sabah who told KUNA he had invited his French counterpart to visit so that the Interior Ministry officers would have a glimpse of the latest techniques in internal security.

Shaykh Salim added that Kuwait has always sought to upgrade its internal and external defense systems and that the Franco-Kuwaiti agreement was in line with this policy.

The accord would open new horizons for Kuwait to benefit from the French experience in areas of police work and civil defense, he said.

KUNA learnt the accord tackles the two countries' efforts to fight terrorism and drug trafficking and calls for contacts between the French and Kuwaiti Interior Ministries to define areas where the French expertise can be employed.

Joxe, the first French interior minister to visit Kuwait, has met here with his highness the Amir, and His Highness Crown Prince and Prime Minister Shaykh Sa'd al-Abdallah, while his in-depth talks were with Shaykh Salim.

Tariq 'Aziz Leaves for Arab League Meeting

JN1109180089 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, left today for Tunis to attend the meetings of the 92d session of the Arab League Council. The meetings are scheduled to begin tomorrow in Tunis.

The session's agenda includes 250 subjects, the most important of which are the Palestine question and its developments, the Lebanese question, and the Iraqi-Iranian peace talks. The session also will discuss adopting a practical position on arranging a dialogue between the EC and the Arab League.

Vo Chi Cong, SRV Delegation on Official Visit

Saddam Meets Vo Chi Cong

JN1109171889 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] A round of official talks was held this morning in Baghdad between the two friendly countries—the Republic of Iraq and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Iraqi delegation was headed by leader President Saddam Husayn, while the delegation of friendly Vietnam was headed by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the Council of State.

During the talks, the visiting chairman reviewed the progress of relations between the two countries, the regional situation in Southeast Asia, and international developments. He also reviewed economic and political developments within the SRV.

The visiting chairman praised the relations which have existed for many years between the two friendly countries and the support they gave to each other's struggle for national independence. He asserted that the SRV pins great importance on developing relations of friendship and cooperation with Iraq in all fields. He expressed happiness over the Iraqi people's achievements since the 17-30 July Revolution of 1968 under the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and leader President Saddam Husayn.

The guest chairman asserted that his country highly appreciates the great efforts made by the Iraqi people to rebuild their country after the war. He welcomed the decision of Iraq and Iran to agree to the cease-fire resolution. He also voiced his support for the two countries entering into direct, bilateral negotiations to resolve the outstanding problems between them in a manner guaranteeing the legitimate interests of both parties.

He also voiced his admiration for, and welcomed the support given by Iraq to the liberation movements of the world, particularly to the struggle waged by the Palestinian people. He also welcomed Iraq's support for the Nonaligned Movement states in their struggle against imperialism and for peace and development.

The visiting chairman reviewed economic and political development in the SRV. He said that current economic policy is advancing on the basis of a diverse economy and provides the opportunity for the private and mixed sectors to support the public and cooperative sectors in order to exploit all resources in the country.

He also explained the nature of the SRV's current economic programs which are aimed at improving agriculture, consumer industries, and products for export.

The visiting chairman also reviewed the process of political renewal in his country and confirmed the foremost interest in broadening democracy.

On international affairs and the SRV's foreign policy, the visitor said that his country supports the peoples' struggle for peace, independence, development, and strengthening the unity of the Nonaligned Movement. He added that the SRV also supported the struggle to establish a new economic system and broaden cooperation among different countries on the basis of equality and mutual benefit.

He confirmed his country's definite support for the Arab states' struggle to defend their sovereignty and independence against imperialism and Zionism. He particularly emphasized support for the Palestinian people's struggle for their sacred, inalienable rights, including their right to self-determination and to their independent state—Palestine—on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO.

He also voiced his support for convening an international peace conference as soon as possible. He said such a conference, in order to acheive a just peace in the Middle East, should include the participation of the PLO as an independent party on equal footing with the other parties.

Regarding the Cambodian problem, the visiting chairman voiced his country's support for a neutral, independent, and nonaligned Cambodia. He also voiced his support for a government of national reconciliation there. He voiced his country's desire to find a political solution to the Cambodian problem and cited his country's efforts and desire to achieve independence and peace for all in Vietnam, Cambodia, and throughout Southeast Asia.

He confirmed his country's desire to develop relations of friendship and cooperation with all the SRV's neighbors. The talks lasted for more than 2 hours. The two friendly countries will continue their talks in another round this evening.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Revolution Command Council Members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf; and Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister. The talks also were attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif, minister of finance;

Umid Midhat Mubarak, minister of labor and social affairs and head of the visiting chairman's escort of honor; and the Iraqi charge d'affairs in the SRV.

On the friendly Vietnamese side, the talks were attended by the SRV chairman's delegation and by Nguyen Canh Dinh, Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee member [as heard] and minister of water conservancy; Dinh Nho Liem, CPV Central Committee member and first deputy foreign minister [title as heard]; Le Thanh Nghi, assistant to the chairman of the Council of State [title as heard]; (Nguyen Hu Hu), deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's West Asia and Africa Department; and the Vietnamese ambassador to Baghdad.

Second Round of Talks Held

JN1109193989 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] A second round of official talks has been held between the two friendly countries—the Republic of Iraq and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. The Iraqi delegation was headed by leader President Saddam Husayn, while the delegation of friendly Vietnam was headed by Vo Chi Cong, chairman of the SRV Council of State.

During the talks, viewpoints were exchanged on all matters related to bilateral relations, regional and international issues, and the progress of Iraqi-Iranian negotiations to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598.

Leader President Saddam Husayn reviewed Iraq's firm, principled stand on the issue of peace with Iran. He asserted that Iraq's concern for peace was made clear through its stands toward the UN resolutions calling for halting the war between Iraq and Iran, beginning with the first resolution issued by the UN Security Council on 28 September 1980 and ending with the cease-fire resolution on 8 August 1988.

The leader president said: Through its refusal to enter into direct negotiations to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598, it became clear to us that Iran has not yet taken a final decision on peace. Our decision was, and still is, final and firm—that is to choose peace.

Leader President Saddam Husayn explained: We in Iraq want a comprehensive, complete, and final peace. We want to implement UN Security Council Resolution 598 as an integrated and comprehensive peace plan and we reject the selective approach to the UN Security Council resolution. We believe that the cease-fire alone does not constitute a state of peace and stability in the region.

His excellency reviewed the progress of the economic and political situation in the country. He pointed out that the state's policy aims to amplify the role of the socialist sector in the vital sectors, including the consumer industries, and provides the private and mixed sectors with all requirements of progress and support within the context of increasing the level of general economic activity in the country.

The leader president also reviewed the concepts and applications of the party and revolution in the fields of democratic practice. He asserted that from the first day of the revolution until now, our party has never been isolated and that, currently, it attempts to entrench democratic practices and broaden the base of participation by the people and national parties.

The leader president also referred to the developments in current international relations. He said the movement away from confrontation and cold war and toward dialogue was a positive development.

The leader president asserted that the Nonaligned Movement is vital to international relations, and he emphasized the need for, and the importance of improving the Movement. He said it is important to remember that international circumstances and the nature of relations among countries in the current phase is different from those that existed when the Nonaligned Movement was established. He also referred to the need to take into account that when the Nonaligned Movement was established, the levels of economic, scientific, and technical progress did not affect the peoples and nations as they affect them now.

The leader president renewed Iraq's support for the peoples' struggle for their full independence in all fields of life, for their self-determination, and for making free choices. His excellency confirmed Iraq's principled pan-Arab stand toward our Palestinian Arab people's struggle, and he reasserted Iraq's support for the Palestinian people and their sole legitimate representative—the PLO.

The leader president expressed to the guest chairman his wishes and those of the Iraqi leadership for the SRV to achieve the goals which it struggles to realize in a manner that will bolster its independence, make it a prosperous country, and make its people a happy people.

The talks were attended on the Iraqi side by Revolution Command Council Members Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister; Vice President Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf; and Dr Sa'dun Hammadi, deputy prime minister. They were also attended by Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information; Hikmat 'Umar Mukhaylif, minister of finance; and the Iraqi charge d'affairs in the SRV.

On the friendly Vietnamese side, the talks were attended by the delegation accompanying the SRV chairman—Nguyen Canh Dinh, Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] Central Committee member [as heard] and minister of water conservancy; Dinh Nho Liem, CPV Central Committee member and first deputy foreign minister [title as heard]; Le Thanh Nghi, assistant to the chairman of the Council of State [title as heard]; (Nguyen Hu Hu), deputy director of the Foreign Ministry's West Asia and Africa Department; and the Vietnamese ambassador to Baghdad.

Iraqi-Swedish Meetings Begin in Stockholm

JN1109193289 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1735 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Stockholm, 11 Sep (INA)—Meetings of the sixth session of the Joint Iraqi-Swedish Committee for Economic, Trade, and Scientific Cooperation began here today.

In a speech, Muhammad Hamzah, minister of transport and communications and head of the Iraqi side of the committee, affirmed Iraq's interest in strengthening economic, trade, and scientific cooperation between Iraq and other states. He also said that Iraq would give preference in trade dealings to countries that import more Iraqi goods.

Mrs Anita Gradin, minister of trade and head of the Swedish side of the committee, said that the Swedish Government was interested in developing the relations which have existed between Iraq and Sweden for a long time. She said that the Swedish Government hoped that permanent peace between Iraq and Iran would be achieved on the basis of UN Security Council Resolution 598. She also pointed out that peace would provide the necessary atmosphere for economic prosperity in the region.

Mrs Gradin pointed out that the number of Swedish companies that will take part in the next session of the Baghdad International Fair will be 30—a tangible increase from previous sessions.

Muhammad Hamzah arrived here yesterday to hold talks with a number of trade and industrial companies. During the talks, he will discuss the possibility of these companies participating in major projects implemented by Iraq during the current and the coming phases.

Daily Repeats Call for Arab Summit on Lebanon

JN1109101889 Baghdad INA in English
0930 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Baghdad, Sept. 11, INA—AL-THAWRAH daily of Baghdad said that those who bet on the possibility of any change of the Syrian attitude towards the Arab solution of the Lebanese crisis were mistaken.

A daily article here today said that there are some who do not like to hold the Arab summit to that its meetings would not be turned into a trial for Hafiz al-Asad.

The daily said that all such interpretations and views weaken the Arab decision and defer the settlement, liquidating it or internationalizing the crisis. Such views would not reply to the question of how to save Lebanon or repulse the reckless acts of Hafiz al-Asad.

The daily added that failure of bringing to success an Arab solution to the crisis would greatly harm the Arab nation and its issues of destiny and thus would lead to a victory of the Zionist-Syrian anti-Arab design.

This, the daily pointed out, would also lead to consecrating the principle of using arms for settling Arab disputes, interference in the internal affairs of the Arab countries and imposing guardianship on the arab decision.

The daily further said that we call for holding a summit for speaking frankly and confronting and trying the criminal without courting, manoeuvering and attempts to avoid national responsibility.

The evidences against the criminal Hafiz al-Asad do not need trial as Arab leaders and masses including the Syrian and Lebanese people are witnesses and victims of his crimes.

Shamir, Alignment Ministers Consider Mubarak Plan

TA1109184389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1705 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] President Mubarak's 10-point plan is already a cause for debate in Israel. It calls for, among other things, the right of East Jerusalem Arabs to vote and be elected; territories for peace; an Israeli withdrawal from polling areas during the elections; and a ban on setting up new settlements.

No political forum has yet discussed the plan. Knesset factions, however, are already making their opinions known. Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen has these opinions:

[Begin recording] [Kohen] The prime minister again stressed today that Israel backs its peace initiative with no additions or omissions. Nothing is binding on us except the peace initiative as approved in the Cabinet and the Knesset. These are remarks Prime Minister Shamir made in response to the various comments already made in favor of Mubarak's plan. Anyone who says anything different causes damage to the Cabinet and the Knesset resolutions.

Alignment ministers have not rejected Mubarak's plan outright. Israel does not need to adopt the plan, but if the Israeli peace initiative does not take off, this 10-point plan could serve as a lever to pry us out of the political freeze.

Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres believes that the Egyptian 10-point plan could serve as a basis for negotiations on the plan for elections in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. The Egyptian demand to stop the settlements is impractical, because at present there are no new settlements.

[Peres, in English] If a Palestinian delegation will come equipped with those 10 points as their position, we shall probably come equipped with our positions, and we can start the preparations for negotiations.

[Kohen] Minister 'Ezer Weizman also favors the 10-point plan.

[Weizman] As this is the going plan, naturally I will not oppose it. Quite the contrary; it needs to be helped. My belief is that the plan presented by President Mubarak, who is a serious man, could definitely be accepted. We can, of course, sit and discuss this or that nuance.

[Kohen] Egypt is the key for the solution of the dispute between us and the Arab world, and that is why it should be helped in finding ways out of the crisis, says Minister Weizman. [end recording]

Further on 'Secret' Shamir Offer to Mubarak

TA1209081289 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Daniyel Ben-Simon, 'Aliza Wallach, Yitzhaq Meridor, and Tova Tzimuqi]

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has in the last few days sent a secret message to Egyptian President Husni Mubarak, whereby if the latter agreed to a public meeting Shamir would announce that East Jerusalem Arabs would be allowed to vote in the elections in the territories, if the polling stations are placed outside the area. Shamir would even be prepared to announce that the Palestinian delegation could include two deportees, on condition that they are not members of the PLO-Tunis. The prime minister relayed the message to Mubarak through a Cabinet minister. [passage omitted]

The Prime Minister's Office has categorically denied the report. The reaction of Yosi Ahime'ir, Shamir's spokesman, was: "It is an absolute lie. Shamir would never pay any price for a meeting. He would gladly confer with the Egyptian president, but no price should be paid in exchange for a meeting." Ahime'ir described the report as "a tall tale." According to him, the report was meant to weaken the position of Shamir and the Israeli Government. "This is an attempt to show that Shamir entertains thoughts about making concessions on certain points and to ignite a fire within the Likud," Ahime'ir noted. [passage omitted]

Shamir Office Rejects Abu-Sharif Talks Proposal

TA1209061189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0505 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Studio discussion between moderator Shalom Qital and correspondent Ze'ev Kohen—live]

[Text] [Qital] Well, let us hear the reactions here in Jerusalem to Bassam Abu-Sharif's proposal to come to Israel. Good morning, Ze'ev Kohen.

[Kohen] Good morning.

[Qital] You were at the Prime Minister's Office and the various bureaus of the Labor Party leaders. What do they say?

[Kohen] That is correct. I was told at the Prime Minister's Office that Abu-Sharif is a member of a terrorist organization and that no talks will be held with him. The government guidelines stipulate that no negotiations are to be conducted with PLO personnel. Any PLO member arriving in Israel will, of course, be arrested and tried as a member of a terrorist organization that engages in the murder of Jews.

Defense Minister Rabin returned from the United States yesterday, and this morning he will meet with the prime minister. He will brief him on his talks in Washington and on developments in the Israeli peace initiative.

President Mubarak's 10-point plan and the U.S. position may be discussed. The prime minister has made several unequivocal statements regarding the 10 points: We are waiting for a partner who will give a positive answer to the Israeli initiative in principle, and then we will commence negotiations and try to achieve an understanding. As for now, we are committed to the peace initiative that was endorsed by the Cabinet and the Knesset, without any additions or deletions.

Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin, addressing the Abu-Sharif matter this morning, told me that the problem is not where to meet. Beilin said that the main issue for the Labor Party, according to its new 1988 platform, is whether the PLO is willing to totally renounce terror and violence and recognize Israel, as well as the Geneva and Algiers resolutions. What remains to be done is to cease the terror and violence which are still practiced. If these are stopped, Beilin will propose that his party respond to any challenge of this kind or, in other words, meet the PLO and negotiate with it—because any other Palestinian partner today would be more extreme and dangerous for Israel.

Peres Discusses Egyptian Plan, Elections

TA1009185189 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by political correspondent Shlomo Ganor in Peres' office on 10 September—videotaped in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Peres] I believe that the main point on the agenda right now is actually negotiations on the negotiations. In other words, a meeting between us and a Palestinian delegation to determine the nature of the elections, their date, and so on.

[Ganor] Is this pursuant to the Egyptian president's proposal regarding the composition of the Palestinian delegation?

[Peres] This addresses the issue appropriately, as the Egyptian president's 10 points by and large refer to the nature of the elections. Consequently, I see nothing wrong in them and they can definitely be discussed. This is not to say that everything should be accepted as written, but as a rule it is time we discussed the essence and character of the elections.

[Ganor] Can the Egyptian president's 10 points pull the political process out of the bog?

[Peres] If these 10 points result in negotiations, the answer is yes. The problem is that we cannot accept the 10 points as they are. We can, however, agree—for instance—that a Palestinian delegation would come and propose 10 or 11 points, and we would offer our own proposals. Clearly, the negotiations should focus on the elections.

[Ganor] Despite the difficulties and the fact that they are subject to dispute, are the Egyptian 10 points acceptable to Israel?

[Peres] Israel has not yet discussed these 10 points and has not taken any official position. It is pointless to discuss one proposal or another theoretically each time proposals come up. If this turns out to be the Palestinian delegation's proposal, we will discuss it and then reach a decision. Furthermore, I do not believe we should accept the 10 points before negotiations begin. Those who come to the negotiations may come armed with these 10 points.

[Ganor] Will there be a Palestinian delegation instead of elections?

[Peres] No. As I said before, that delegation will be able to discuss elections; it does not have to be a substitute for elections. Yet we must reach an agreement on the kind of elections we will have.

[Ganor] Mr Peres, what kind of Palestinian delegation would you like to see entering negotiations with Israel on elections?

[Peres] I would like to see a delegation that represents the inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza. It should be representative of those inhabitants even though it has not yet been elected, as one cannot have an elected delegation prior to elections. We have a pretty good idea of who those people will be, who are the leaders. These are the ones with whom it is necessary to enter into negotiations.

[Ganor] But the PLO is refusing to give up its role in forming the delegation.

[Peres] First of all, I am not familiar with the PLO's position on the matter, but if it refuses to give up its role, this will much delay the process. I see no reason why the Palestinians should not agree to launch preliminary, informal negotiations. In general, I think that the proposal not only benefits peace; it also helps the parties involved in the peace process. I would tell our Arab friends and foes alike: The Arab world has tried so many things—monarchy, republics, military rule, and all sorts of elections. I believe that if the Arab world begins to taste democracy—and democracy has been winning all over the world, even in the Soviet Union—it will embark on the right path politically, economically, and also insofar as peace is concerned.

Peres Says 8 Points Can Be Dealt With 'Favorably'

TA1109190289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has said that in his opinion some 8 of the 10 points in President Mubarak's plan could be responded to favorably. He noted, however, that the very presentation of the questions constitutes positive progress. Speaking to Chingiz Aytmatov, chairman of the USSR writers association,

Peres said: Our feeling is that peace is within reach. As a member of the Labor Party, Peres added, it is clear to me that we will have to pay a price for peace, which is territories.

The Soviet author Aytmatov said that he regrets the fact that such remarks do not reach the USSR leadership as they are, and that what does reach them is twisted and weakened. He noted that he would convey the remarks in letter and spirit to the USSR leadership.

Aytmatov is considered a personal friend of USSR President Gorbachev. [passage omitted]

Peres Discusses Egyptian 10-Point Peace Plan

TA1209071189 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Telephone interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Mikha Friedman and Ya'el Dan—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Vice Prime Minister Peres.

[Peres] Good morning.

[Friedman] Does the PLO's apparent inclination to take a favorable view of Mubarak's 10-point plan strike you as an important or a substantial step forward in the peace process?

[Peres] First of all, we talk in concepts that rapidly become detached from reality. Let us look at things issue by issue. We proposed that the Palestinians hold elections. Let us ask ourselves whether the Palestinians are permitted to submit requests or ask questions regarding the nature of elections or whether this is forbidden. In my opinion, they have this right. The 10 points mainly deal with the nature of elections in the territories. It is entirely legitimate for them to state their positions, even though we are not obligated to accept everything in advance. But if the Palestinians agree to the elections themselves and are ready to send a delegation whose positions will be more or less those laid out in the 10 points, and if we will then come to the meeting with our own positions and commence negotiations, then I will certainly regard this as a positive development.

[Friedman] Are all the 10 points proposed by President Mubarak acceptable to you, or do you have some reservations?

[Peres] No, and I do not think that I have to accept all 10 points or their style just like that, ahead of time. After all, he is not asking that we agree to all 10 points before negotiations even start. What they have said is that these 10 points will constitute their position.

[Friedman] Which point poses a problem for you?

[Peres] I do not want to commit myself at this time. Why should I publicly address each and every point? Most of them are acceptable to me and to the Labor Party Central Committee.

[Dan] What do you think of Abu-Sharif's proposal to come to Israel and meet with a minister from the Labor Party? I imagine he would be happy to meet with you.

[Peres] Is this the problem? Whether he will come or not? There are enough Palestinian representatives in the territories. We have declared that we prefer to negotiate with them. We prefer to negotiate with people who have been or will be elected, rather than with others.

[Dan] Can you discern any positive development in Abu-Sharif's proposal, in the definition of the people with whom he is willing to meet or the location he is ready to come to?

[Peres] I do not think so. I do not feel that what is needed right now is drama. What is necessary right now is the launching of serious negotiations. We have to follow a practical path and stick to the point.

[Friedman] Yes. Mr Peres, I would like to hear a confirmation or denial of the report that was published this morning that your colleague Abba Eban, who is currently in Egypt, has delivered a message to the Egyptian leadership stating that if the Palestinians support President Mubarak's 10 points, you will raise the issue for a decisive vote in the Inner Cabinet or the Cabinet.

[Peres] Is that what you published? I have not heard. In any case, here is the story. Mr Abba Eban met with me on Friday, before he left for Egypt. He asked for my opinion, and I told him what I think, simply what I clearly stated here before. If he informs the Egyptians of my position, I will be very pleased.

[Friedman] And will you demand in the Inner Cabinet or Cabinet plenum to bring it to a...

[Peres, interrupting] I think so. If it indeed becomes clear that a Palestinian delegation is ready to come, bearing the 10 points as their own stated position... [changes thought] The Cabinet has made no decision to reject it. I am not saying, however, that it decided to endorse it. Mr Arens cannot say that he rejects it, because no decision to reject it was made. He can state that this is his private opinion, and he can oppose it, but I can support it. The only way to make a conclusive decision is through a Cabinet or Inner Cabinet session.

[Friedman] Yes. But our political correspondent reports that the prime minister has refused to discuss Mubarak's 10 points in that forum.

[Peres] I do not know. Your correspondent is your correspondent and the prime minister is the prime minister. What do you mean: refused? Has the correspondent refused or the prime minister?

[Friedman] You must assume we mean the prime minister.

[Peres] One can also argue with the prime minister. What is this refusal? The Cabinet debates are not someone's private domain. If we demand it, there will be a debate.

[Dan] Perhaps you would also argue with the prime minister over another matter. The prime minister said yesterday that the elections to the Histadrut Labor Federation have political significance. Do you see things the same way?

[Peres] No! Not at all. There is tremendous unemployment now. All Cabinet ministers, including the prime minister, should join in the fight against unemployment. Is this the time to introduce the political debate into the Histadrut? It would be better if the ministers and the Knesset would reconvene and decide to endorse the plan for 100 projects [Peres plan to cut red tape in authorizing 100 large projects to reduce unemployment]. We should all swiftly roll up our sleeves and start moving the economy forward. I would like to tell you that I am really surprised and shocked by such an attitude. Is this the problem today? The entire country is floundering in unemployment. The economy is in a recession. A tremendous effort must be made to extricate it from this slowdown. Is this the time to tell the unemployed to decide if they are doves or hawks? To discuss the 10 points? Is this our message to the people who are laid off? Is this our message to workers who fear the loss of their jobs? What kind of government is this? Must the Likud constantly only look for political gains? Is this the issue: political gains for the Likud? We must all together, as one man, take a united stand in the financial, economical, and social spheres and try to get the country out the recession. This is what we must do.

[Friedman] We started off with 10 points and wound up with 100 projects...

[Peres, interrupting] And I would like to tell you that I am optimistic, despite all the difficulties. We will get ourselves out of the recession. None of these tricks, in which the Histadrut workers are told to forget everything because of the political issues, will succeed. They did it once in the municipal elections, and once is enough. Now we must shrug off the recession, and we will do so. We must also preserve the peace initiative. It is our duty and is for our own good.

[Friedman] Thank you, Vice Prime Minister Peres.

Arens Views Peace Plan; To Meet Mubarak

TA1009200789 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak will apparently meet with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens in New York during the UN General Assembly sessions in approximately 2 weeks. This was reported by the foreign minister to our northern correspondent Moti 'Eden. Arens added that President Mubarak did not reject Israel's peace initiative outright. The foreign minister believes there is no question that the Israeli peace initiative is progressing. Minister Arens was visiting the Druze village Hurfaysh on the occasion of a Druze holiday.

Draft List of Palestinian Delegation Reported

TA1209073789 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 12 Sep 89 pp 1, 4

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Text] Western diplomatic sources involved in the contacts between the United States and Egypt have confirmed to our correspondent that 'Arafat's talks in Cairo will focus on the formation of a Palestinian delegation for talks with Israel, despite the fact that the latter says it will not comment on Mubarak's initiative as long as there is no Arab party to negotiate with.

According to these sources, a draft list of the candidates who will make up the delegation already exists, and Egypt will publish it. The final selection will be done according to several principles: All the delegates should be recognized by the Israeli public as moderate men advocating a political solution, and they will represent geographical zones and large clans.

Consequently, the current draft list includes the following names: Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyad, Hanna Sinyurah, Ilyas Frayj, Mustafa 'Abd-al-Nabi al-Natshah, Ghassan al-Shak'ah, Jamil al-Tarifi, Sa'id Kan'an, Hatim Abu-Ghazalah, Fayiz Abu-Rahmah, and Mansur al-Shawwa. The intention is to agree on a list of 8 to 10 figures from the territories and another 2 or 3 from the Palestinian diaspora.

Palestinian sources noted that some of the candidates—such as Faysal al-Husayni, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, and Fayiz Abu-Rahmah—have already left for Cairo, while others are due to depart shortly.

Our correspondent points out that the list of candidates does not include representatives of pro-'Arafat organizations in the territories, such as the Democratic Front or the Communist Party. According to these sources, efforts are currently under way to include Palestinian leftists, such as Zuhayra Kamal who is seen as representing the Democratic Front, in the list.

Denial of Rabin OK on Palestinian Delegation

TA0809095989 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 8 Sep 89 pp A1, 2

[Report by Shefi Gabay and Ran Dagoni]

[Excerpt] A PLO source in Tunis yesterday claimed that Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has embraced the idea of allowing Palestinians from outside the territories to

serve as behind-the-scenes advisers to the delegation of Palestinians from the territories in the negotiations with Israel on the election plan.

The source claimed that Rabin's visit in Washington was aimed at finding an appropriate formula to extricate the election plan from its deadlock. "In the last few days the PLO leadership has received a message, via a third party, that Rabin is definitely willing to allow three Palestinians bearing U.S. passports and several deportees to serve only as advisers, beyond the reach of the negotiating table," the source added.

"Bullshit" is how Rabin's spokesman Eytan Haber described the remarks of the PLO source. "That is a totally unfounded report," Haber stressed. [passage omitted]

Rabin Returns; on 'Reexamination' of Initiative

TA1109201889 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this afternoon returned from his visit to the United States. Addressing the annual Israel Bonds meeting in Philadelphia yesterday, Rabin said that if a Palestinian partner for negotiations with Israel is not found soon, there would be a need to reexamine the peace initiative. While in Philadelphia, Minister Rabin visited the family of Rita Levin, God rest her soul, who was killed in the attack on an Egged bus some 2 months ago. Our correspondent Ya'ir Stern reports on the concluding part of the defense minister's tour:

[Begin recording] [Stern] [Passage omitted] Prior to his visit to the Levin family, Defense Minister Rabin addressed the annual gathering of the Israel Bonds organization. The group, which to this day has sold some $10 billion worth of bonds, this year sold some $390 million, an increase of some 7 percent, despite the intifadah [uprising].

[Rabin, in English] The message must be: Forget about it that by stones or petrol bottles you will make Israel budge one inch or [from] one major point in our policy.

[Stern] After the official address, Rabin spoke to correspondents and left the impression that if no Palestinian partners for negotiations are found soon, there will be a need to reexamine the initiative for elections in the territories.

[Rabin, in Hebrew] We are witnessing a certain degree of escalation. What has also contributed to this is the feeling that the chance of starting a political process on the basis of the government initiative is diminishing. We will have to operate on both levels: We will have to reexamine the peace initiative, and will have to employ all the means needed within the framework of the law to deal substantively with those who cause the violence and with those who are active in it. [end recording]

Government Urged Not To Reject Mubarak's Plan

TA1009120289 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 10 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Do Not Reject Mubarak's Plan]

[Text] Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's 10-point plan is trying to fill with some content the vacuum created recently in political activity.

Mubarak's plan, similar to other Arab plans, does not ignore the negative propaganda effect which would come in the wake of Israel's rejection of such a plan. Indeed, how can Israel react with a total rejection of the "land for peace" principle advocated by the Americans? Therefore, it is wrong to dig in our heels and repel a priori every Egyptian proposal in which this principle features prominently. Israel could get away from dealing with Mubarak's plan by reviving its political initiative and adopting some of the points contained in the Egyptian plan.

If two plans meant to budge the political situation are placed on the international agenda the expected departure from the current deadlock would be attributed to Israel.

It is doubtful that in its present constellation the unity government will be able to revive the political initiative at a time when the leaders of the blocs forming it are subject to tough domestic pressures.

Palestinians' 'Preliminary' Acceptance of 10 Points

TA0809120989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Sep 89 p A2

[Report by Ori Nir]

[Excerpts] Palestinian public figures in the territories who are identified with the PLO's mainstream say that the Egyptian Government's 10-point plan aimed at reviving the political process is acceptable to them as a preliminary move. According to them, these points have been discussed in recent meetings between Egyptian Government officials and Palestinian public figures from the territories.

One of the most prominent figures, Radwan Abu-'Ayyash, yesterday said that he regards the 10 points as a possible basis for a common denominator between the parties for the beginning of a process, but not as a full-fledged plan containing the basic principles for a comprehensive peace initiative. Abu-'Ayyash said that these points are very likely to be approved by the PLO and Israeli leaders as the key to an opening, but from the Palestinian point of view they call for changes and amendments so that they may be acceptable as the basis for a future solution.

Upon returning from a private visit to Egypt 2 days ago, businessman Sa'id Kan'an from Nabulus said that the points were "not bad" as the basis for the beginning of a

process, but were unsuitable the basis for a political plan because they focus on technical-procedural aspects and do not deal with the basic principles the Palestinians insist upon: the right to self-determination, the establishment of an independent state, and the inclusion of the PLO in the negotiations. [passage omitted]

Palestinian observers in the territories have in the last few days been voicing their assessment that one of the reasons for the presentation of the 10-point plan by the Egyptian Government is the rapprochement between the PLO and Jordan. This rapprochement threatens to rob Egypt of its supremacy as the mediator between the Palestinians and the United States and Israel in its attempts to break the political deadlock.

Ya'aqobi Sees 'Potential' in Mubarak's 10 Points

TA0809112189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Minister Gad Ya'aqobi said today at a meeting of Labor Party activists in Tel Aviv that no one has been authorized to reject President Mubarak's 10 points on behalf of the Cabinet, as the Cabinet has not held a debate on the issue and there is consequently no clear-cut position on the matter. Ya'aqobi finds some elements in Mubarak's proposal that should not be rejected and said that if Israel's political initiative is bogged down, Mubarak's initiative is a potential means of salvaging it.

Shamir: No 'Substantive' Change in Soviet Policy

TA0809093989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 8 Sep 89 pp 4, 8

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Menahem Shalev; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Shalev] You said last week that the negative attitude of the Soviet Union towards Israel has not changed. Is that really the case, when one looks at the developments that have taken place in the past two or three years?

[Shamir] At the basic level, at the substantive level, it has not changed. We have not come any closer to formal recognition, to diplomatic relations.

There are, I admit, positive developments, but they are incidental. There has been some positive television coverage, and the existence of the consular delegation; these are positive signs. About economic ties there's a lot of talk.

But when you talk to the Soviet foreign ministry today you cannot sense any change. They tell you: "We won't change the nature of our relationship with Israel until Israel changes its policy." They say it quite clearly.

Glasnost seems to have skipped over the Middle East, and has yet to reach Israel. The Soviet Union maintains its intimate relations with the terrorist organizations. All the communist countries, to this day, have intimate and supportive relations, including operative support, with terrorist organizations.

In the communist world, this is the only thing that is left of the Leninist theory about the alliance with the anti-imperialist war. To this day the Soviets maintain a special relationship with the PLO, because of this.

It could also be that the people of the Soviet foreign ministry also see the positive aspects of this policy, because they are interested in close relations with the Arab countries, and they can see that in the Arab states there is great sympathy for the Palestinian terrorist organizations. It's a fact that public opinion in these countries supports Palestinian terrorism, enthusiastically supports the intifada [uprising] and the terrorist organizations, supports all the anti-Israeli terrorist activities.

So it's possible that Soviet statesmen say "why not?"

[Shalev] Does this policy of the Soviets bar an understanding between them and the U.S. on a joint course of action in the Middle East?

[Shamir] It is definitely an obstruction. Because the Americans also say that if the Soviet Union wants to be part of any diplomatic process towards peace between Israel and the Arab states, it must change its attitude towards Israel. This is the official policy of the United States, to this day.

And in Europe you hear the same thing: In all my meetings with Andreotti, today the Italian Prime Minister, he says consistently that the Soviet Union must first establish normal diplomatic relations with Israel, and then she can have her say.

Andreotti says this very extremely, and he is, after all, typical from the point of view of his positive attitude towards the Arab side.

Shamir Interviewed by Soviet Journalist

TA1109185689 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] The prime minister today called for the opening of diplomatic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union. In an interview with Soviet journalist Dimitriy Zagorskiy, political commentator for the NEW TIMES weekly, Shamir said Israel welcomes Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of glasnost and perestroyka and looks forward to establishing full diplomatic ties and direct talks with Moscow.

Peres: No Application for Settlement Freeze

TA1109110389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres feels that Egypt's 10-point plan can serve as a basis to begin negotiations on elections in the territories.

In a press conference following a meeting with an Israel Bonds delegation from the United States, Minister Peres said that the Labor Party supports the principle of territories for peace and the right of East Jerusalem Arabs to participate in the elections. As for the Egyptian demand to freeze settlement, which is included among the 10 points, Minister Peres said that this clause has no practical application, because no new settlements are currently being set up. Peres also spoke of the chances of the Labor Party and the Likud both agreeing on the Egyptian plan, asserting that the main obstacle to such an agreement is the principle of territories for peace.

Peres Briefs Cabinet on 'Terrorist' Attacks

TA1009133489 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] The finance minister, who is also acting defense minister, today told the cabinet that the terrorists at Har Dov fired a light antitank weapon rocket at an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] unit. He also reported that the squad that fired katyushas at the Jordan Valley last week probably came to Jordan from Syria and most likely belongs to George Habash's organization.

Our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen reports that the police affairs minister reported to the Cabinet on last night's attempted attack on a bus traveling along the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway.

The cabinet today approved the Broadcasting Authority's 212 million shekel budget, but it still requires the approval of the Knesset Finance Committee.

The cabinet will debate cuts in the government budget only after the High Holidays when Minister Peres returns from a visit to the United States. The prime minister and finance minister agreed this morning that their ministries would work out a joint proposal to cut 150 million shekels from the budget to fund a supplementary budget for the defense establishment in the wake of the intifadah [uprising]. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that the agreement supercedes the draft accord reached between the two ministries last week.

3 Soldiers Wounded, 'Terrorist' Captured

TA1109142189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Three Army soldiers were slightly wounded today in a clash with a terrorist squad in south Lebanon's central sector. One terrorist was captured. Our correspondent Karmela Menashe reports that an explosive charge blew up at noon as a paratroopers unit was patrolling an area near Kafr Killa. Light weapons fire was also directed at the patrol unit. The soldiers spotted those who activated the explosives and opened fire at them. As said, one of the terrorists was captured. Our correspondent points out that the clash took place near the security fence.

Arens: U.S. Views 'Arafat Visa as Rewarding Terror

TA1009202789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens says that the State Department told him [as heard] some time ago that granting Yasir 'Arafat an entry visa into the United States would be tantamount to rewarding the PLO for terrorism. Minister Arens disclosed this during a meeting with young Likud supporters in 'Akko.

Speaking to our correspondent Nati Zilberman, the foreign minister pointed out that he is convinced that Israel will find the appropriate answer to the attempted infiltrations from the east and the north. Mr Arens expressed amazement at Minister Shim'on Peres' support for Egypt's 10-point plan. He noted that at the time, Mr Peres supported the prime minister's peace initiative, which he believes is the only way to promote peace.

As'ad Saftawi Relays Message From 'Arafat

TA1009082989 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 10 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] Security sources say that As'ad Saftawi, one of the most prominent leaders in the Gaza Strip who returned recently from a visit to Egypt, Algiers, and Tunisia, relayed a message from Yasir 'Arafat to Israeli authorities. The message includes a request by 'Arafat to confer with Israeli leaders to discuss the peace process.

Saftawi handed over the message in a meeting with a security official a few days ago. The official relayed the message to the commander of the Southern Command and the defense minister.

On that same occasion, Saftawi reported on his meetings with senior PLO leaders and on his session with 'Arafat.

Upon his return, Saftawi also reported on his meetings to security officials, who summoned him for questioning. On that occasion, Saftawi told his interlocutors that the PLO was trying to attain legitimacy in Israel.

Histadrut Sends 'Official' Invitation to Walesa

TA0809113289 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Sep 89 p A6

[Text] Knesset Member Yisra'el Qeysar, the secretary general of the Histadrut labor federation, has sent an official invitation to Polish Solidarity leader Lech Walesa to visit Israel as a guest of the Histadrut. This announcement was included in a press communique released by the Histadrut spokesman.

The official invitation was sent to Poland yesterday by the Histadrut's Foreign Relations Department. In the invitation, Qeysar points out that the Histadrut has been closely following the general elections in Poland and was

very impressed by Solidarity's achievements, which led to the establishment of a new government headed by Tadeusz Mazowiecki.

Qeysar suggests to Walesa to come to Israel soon in order to conduct talks on work and friendship, which would enhance relations between Solidarity and the Histadrut.

Jordan 'Apathetic' on 'Terrorist' Infiltrations

TA0809122489 Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew 8 Sep 89 p 2

[Editorial: "They Spit on Us"]

[Text] They spit on us, and we insist that it is raining. That describes the current situation on the Israeli-Jordanian border. A terrorist infiltrated the border on Saturday and killed two soldiers. The defense minister and the chief of staff spoke in very clear terms to the Jordanians. The Jordanians remained apathetic. They try to prevent infiltrations, they make an effort, but they are not sweating over it more than they did in the past. Katyusha rockets were fired yesterday from Jordanian territory at the Jordan Rift Valley. If anybody needed proof of the decline in Israel's deterrent power, there can be no better example than this. On the Lebanese border, they stopped giving a damn about us a long time ago.

Defense officials say nothing new happened, even after the katyusha rockets. And, seeing that nothing has changed, there is no need to do anything except to step up alertness. Maybe they are afraid to rock King Husayn's throne.

The defense establishment should have convened yesterday to do some basic staff work, draw lessons, examine responses, and check security measures. This does not mean we should set out against Jordan tomorrow morning. Every step must be weighed carefully. But, first of all, the Jordanians must be nudged out of their apathy. After all, if Jordan wanted to, it could curb this wave. Were it clear to Jordan that it would be better off dealing with terror from its own territory than dealing with Israel, Jordan would do something.

Katyushas Fired at UNIFIL's Norwegian Contingent

TA0909152389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Katyushas lobbed before dawn at the central sector of the security zone in southern Lebanon were aimed at the headquarters of the Norwegian contingent of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon.

Our correspondent Shula Schmerling reports that 12 or 13 rockets were fired at the headquarters in Ibil al-Saqy, 3 of which hit the building and caused damage, but nobody was hurt.

Soldiers of the Norwegian contingent remained in shelters until daybreak.

Curfew Placed on Qalqilyah; Lifted in Nabulus

TA1009075089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] The IDF [Israel Defense Forces] imposed a curfew on Qalqilyah last night following the murder of the secretary of the municipality there. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that all the young men living in the murdered man's neighborhood were rounded up and held in the courtyard of the local mosque for interrogation and identification purposes. Widespread searches are being carried out throughout the town and in the nearby orchards.

The curfew was lifted off Nabulus and the adjacent refugee camps this morning. The curfew was imposed a week ago.

Qezi'ot Detainee Beaten; General Strike Begins

TA0909115389 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] A detainee at the Qezi'ot detention center was beaten by inmates and moderately wounded this morning. The detainee was rescued and hospitalized at the Soroka Hospital in Beersheba.

A general strike is being staged today in the territories. It marks the 21st month of the intifadah [uprising].

New Ward Added for Detainees at Qezi'ot Prison

TA0809113389 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 8 Sep 89 p A2

[Report by Eytan Rabin]

[Text] By order of Major General Matan Vilna'i, commander of the Southern Command, and following consultations with senior officers, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] has decided to build another ward for detainees at Qezi'ot Prison. It has been learned that the building of the new ward, the fifth, has begun on the site.

Senior military sources yesterday said that the decision to open another ward came "in light of the increasing number of riots in the territories and the consequent large-scale arrests."

The military sources noted that the new ward will be modern and up-to-date. It will accommodate 1,300 inmates and will be built in a way that will facilitate supervision of it.

Qezi'ot Prison is made up of four wards accommodating 4,000 detainees, prisoners, and administrative detainees. A senior military source said that to date, the IDF has invested over 10 million Israeli shekels in the prison. The source added that "fences, towers, and ditches have been built and many improvements have been introduced—all at the expense of the IDF budget." He noted that more patrols are carried out as of late due to the high number of assassinations.

In the wake of the assassinations, there is more control from the watch towers, and the flaps of the tents are kept rolled up and are not allowed to be unrolled at night.

2 Killed by Local Arabs; Gaza Houses Demolished

TA0809114389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] The ruthless attacks on inhabitants of the Gaza Strip by fellow Arabs continue. The bodies of two local inhabitants who were murdered by Arabs have been found in the last 24 hours. Israeli soldiers yesterday found the body of 24-year-old Ja'far Gharawi from Gaza's al-Mughazi neighborhood, after four locals were arrested and confessed to having beaten the man to death.

The body of 30-year-old Na'man Mahmud Ahmad Abu-Sallum from Rafah was brought to al-Nasir Hospital this morning. The man was stabbed and beaten to death, apparently by local Arabs. The body was snatched from the hospital and buried. The police are investigating the murder.

The security forces are not sitting idly by with regard to the murder of Arabs by their brethren. Last night they demolished the houses of three inhabitants of the Khan Yunus refugee camp: 25-year-old Muhsin Abu-'Uqbi, 22-year-old Rafiq Hamduna, and 26-year-old Anwar Abu-Habal. The Israeli Army spokesman said the three were leaders of the popular committees in Jabalyah which identify with Fatah. The spokesman added that in the past few months, the three had ruthlessly attacked local inhabitants whom they suspected of collaborating with the authorities.

A firebomb was thrown at an IDF patrol in Bethlehem this morning, but nobody was hurt. The curfews which were imposed on Saturday remain in effect in Nabulus and the adjacent refugee camps.

Early this morning the IDF conducted an initiated operation in the village of Bayt Dajan near Nabulus. Like similar operations in the past, this operation was meant to capture gangs of wanted men. Many PLO flags and graffiti of various terrorist organizations were found painted on fences and walls. Many men wanted for engaging in hostile terrorist activities were rounded up in the operation.

Update on Incidents in Territories 7 Sep

TA0809113889 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Sep 89 p 3

[Report by Uri'el Ben-'Ami, Ayelet Mazor, and ITIM]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] An 8-month-old infant was brought to the hospital in Tulkarm yesterday with a rubber bullet wound in his back. Military sources have confirmed this report and another concerning a Hebron resident who was wounded by a rubber bullet. [passage omitted]

Some 27 schools have been closed so far in the West Bank following riots. Yesterday five schools were closed in the al-Jalazun refugee camp near Ramallah, in Tubas, and in Janin. [passage omitted]

During the past few days, the Jerusalem Police have detained 14 youths from the village of Bayt Safafa who are suspected of belonging to the local strike committees and of organizing the riots that recently took place in the village.

A Jerusalem Police spokesman reported that the suspects have admitted to charges of throwing firebombs at cars belonging to people suspected of collaboration and at cars traveling along the Pat-Gilo road, organizing disturbances, and throwing stones at security forces. [passage omitted]

Gaza hospitals yesterday reported admitting for treatment 15 men wounded by soldiers gunfire: 1 severely wounded, 8 with slight wounds, and 6 who were treated and later discharged after having been wounded by plastic bullets.

Muhammad 'Abdul Fatah, 22, from the Jabalyah refugee camp, was hospitalized in serious condition in al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. He was one of a group of masked men who clashed with an IDF [Israel Defense Forces] patrol. The soldiers ordered the group to halt and opened fire at them when the group attempted to flee.

The IDF spokesman reported that the soldiers followed procedures, and fired at the masked men only after they started to flee.

Update on Unrest in Territories 10, 11 Sep

TA1109125589 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 Sep 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Mikhal Sela']

[Excerpts] Khan Yunus—Five Palestinians were shot dead yesterday and 15 others, including a 16-month-old girl, were wounded in one of the bloodiest days in the territories in several months.

As the one-week curfew was lifted in Nabulus, small groups of young people throughout the town and in the surrounding refugee camps attacked military patrols.

The violence was apparently sparked by rumors that organs were being taken from the bodies of slain Palestinians for use in transplant operations in Israeli hospitals. [passage omitted]

Also in Nabulus yesterday a settler driving through the town was hit in the head by a stone. The man then fired his gun towards a nearby home and broke several windows, according to Nabulus sources.

The cause of the incidents in Nabulus was, among other reasons, strong rumours that the bodies of the two Palestinians killed 10 days ago were used for the organ transplants in Israeli hospitals during the past week. In addition, there were rumours that slain demonstrators had been buried in a "terrorist cemetery." The West Bank Civil Administrator, however, strongly denied these rumours in an interview on Israel Broadcasting's Arabic programme.

Military sources told THE JERUSALEM POST that the bodies of the two slain Palestinians may be transferred to the Abu-Kabir forensic institute, so that the families will have the opportunity to know the truth. [passage omitted]

[In a report by Oren Kohen and Mikhal Qedem, Tel Aviv HADASHOT in Hebrew on 11 September on page 7 adds that "in Bayt Jala near Bethlehem, 11-year-old Mustafa Hasan was shot by a settler who ran into a hail of stones. Yesterday morning, Mustafa 'Abdallah 'Affani from the village of Tall was stabbed to death, apparently on suspicion of being a collaborator."

Jerusalem Domestic Service in English at 1100 GMT on 11 September adds that "in Qalqilyah, the curfew which was imposed 2 days ago after the murder of the municipality secretary has been lifted."]

'Political Circles' Fear 'Escalation'

TA0809093389 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 8 Sep 89 p 1

[Report by Pe'erli Shahar and London correspondent Dafna Vardi]

[Excerpt] Political circles have voiced their anxiety over a possible escalation on Israel's northern and eastern border as a result of the meeting being held these days between Dennis Ross and Gennadiy Tarasov, the officials dealing with the Middle East in the U.S. State Department and the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The political sources point out that the evacuation of the U.S. Embassy personnel from Beirut has strengthened the Syrian feeling that the United States does not want to be actively involved in the region. The possibility should not be ruled out that if al-Asad were to come to the conclusion that progress is about to be made in the peace process in the region without Syria, he might opt for a military escalation.

Israel, too, is anxiously awaiting the results of the Ross-Tarasov talks. Some believe these are the most important talks held in recent times. The political echelon expects to receive the initial reports on the talks as early as this weekend, upon Ross' return from Europe to the United States. [passage omitted]

Increase in Number of New Immigrants Noted

TA0809060889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] There has been a decisive rise in the number of new immigrants to Israel this year. Some 12,316 new immigrants arrived during the first 8 months of the year. This is an increase of 42 percent over a similar period last year. Last month alone, 2,156 newcomers came to live in Israel. The number of arrivals from the Soviet Union in this year so far is 4,580, nearly two and one-half times the number over a similar period last year.

A record number of Soviet Jewish emmigrants passed through Vienna last month on their way to other countries: 7,770 Jews went through Vienna, and of these only 131 came to Israel. About 1,600 Soviet Jews arrived in Vienna this week, and 14 have decided to immigrate to Israel.

June Unemployment Statistics Show Increase

TA0809114589 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1100 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] The number of unemployed at the end of June was 151,000. This represents a 55-percent increase over the same period last year. The Central Bureau of Statistics says that the number of unemployed in the second quarter of 1989 amounted to 9.4 percent.

King Husayn Says No Summit on Lebanon Now

JN1109202989 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 2010 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Dispatch by Randah Habib in Amman, from the "Panorama" program]

[Excerpt] In a statement to our radio, Jordan's King Husayn has stated that there are presently no plans for holding an emergency Arab summit on Lebanon. King Husayn affirmed his country's support for the efforts of the Arab tripartite committee, which enjoys the support of Arab nations in its efforts to settle the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

PDRY President Wraps Up Visit to Amman

Al-'Attas Meets Press

JN1109170589 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Amman, 11 Sep (PETRA)—His Excellency Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council in the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen [PDRY], says his visit to Jordan has laid the first bricks for consolidating ties between the two brotherly countries. Cooperation between any two Arab countries, he added, would further the cause of joint Arab action.

Speaking this afternoon at a press conference at the guest palace, Al-'Attas said his talks with His Majesty King Husayn covered a range of Arab issues—particularly the Palestinian intifadah [uprising]. Both sides held identical views on the need to support and sustain the intifadah in the interest of a comprehensive, even-handed resolution of the Palestinian issue. Both sides agreed that such a resolution would assure the return of the Palestinians to their homeland, their self-determination, and statehood as articulated by the Algiers conference.

On Lebanon, President al-'Attas said the Lebanese situation worried him deeply, pointing out that he and His Majesty King Husayn have agreed to work toward helping the Lebanese people regain their unity and independence and put an end to their plight. They stressed the need for implementing the Casablanca summit resolutions on Lebanon and reactivating the Arab League Committee's mandate to resolve the Lebanese crisis. The Lebanese people, Al-'Attas added, must be given the opportunity to set up a government, reassert their control over their territory, and rebuild their national unity.

He said the outcome of the talks between the PDRY and Jordan was positive for bilateral relations and for the Arab nation, as well as for global peace and progress. [passage omitted]

On the subject of negotiations between Iraq and Iran, the PDRY leader said they figured prominently in his talks with His Majesty King Husayn. He underscored the need for direct, prompt negotiations between Iraq and Iran to promote an agreement assuring the legitimate rights of the two Muslim countries. He also lauded Iraq's accommodating position.

On another subject, the president said both the PDRY and the United States have a shared interest in restoring diplomatic relations. Contacts toward that end are to get under way this month, Al-'Attas said, adding that he hoped an agreement would soon be reached on reinstituting the ties.

Asked about conditions in the PDRY, the president said a reassessment is being undertaken with a view to correcting past mistakes and building on successes to help the country move forward on an underpinning of democratic practice as an instrument of development.

We have worked since 1986 to build brotherly and cooperative ties between the PDRY and neighboring and other Arab states, Al-'Attas said. He added that his country's relations with the Yemen Arab Republic were good and making continuous progress. He also said: We are working hand in hand as brothers to restore the unity of the Yemeni people through a string of complementary steps in the economic, social, and other spheres.

Al-'Attas Departs Amman

JN1109170789 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] His Excellency Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme People's Council of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, left Amman this evening after a 3-day official visit to Jordan. During the visit, Al-'Attas held talks with His Majesty King Husayn on Arab and international developments and ways to strengthen and bolster fraternal relations between the two countries in all fields. His excellency was accorded an official send-off, with His Majesty King Husayn at the head of those seeing him off. Also seeing him off were His Highness Prince Muhammad, his majesty's personal representative; the prime minister; the Senate president; the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; his majesty's adviser; his majesty's political adviser; his majesty's private adviser; the chief chamberlain; the ministers; the chief of general staff; the dean of the diplomatic corps; and the Arab ambassadors accredited to Jordan. The royal Jordanian and national Yemeni anthems were played and the two leaders reviewed a group of the honor guards.

King Comments on Visit

JN1109185889 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Upon His Excellency President Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas' departure from Amman, His Majesty King Husayn talked to reporters about the visit. He said: President al-'Attas' visit to Jordan was most successful. His majesty added: I have had the opportunity of

meeting his excellency at a number of Arab summits and other occasions. I found him to be an Arab leader with self-respect, esteem, and a great sense of responsibility. His visit to Jordan provided us with the opportunity to exchange views and establish true and firm cooperation between our two countries in all fields.

Answering a question on efforts to end the Lebanese crisis, his majesty said: Jordan has supported, and still supports, the Arab tripartite committee, which enjoys the backing of the whole Arab nation in its efforts which, we hope, will contribute to a solution to the Lebanese crisis. His majesty added that he is continuing his contacts with his brothers the Arab leaders, all of whom are greatly concerned about the subject of Lebanon.

Communists, Palestinians Among Detainees Released

JN1109074089 Paris AL-MUHARRIR in Arabic 9 Sep 89 p 2

[Text] Upon the orders of King Husayn, 60 detainees belonging to the Jordanian Communist Party and both the Popular Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] and the Democratic Front [for the Liberation of Palestine] were released last Sunday. They were arrested late last April following disturbances in some Jordanian cities.

Immediately after the issuance of the release order, a number of Communist Party leaders appeared in public. Most prominent among them were Dr Ya'qub Zayadin, 'Isa Madanat, Emilie Naffa', Amal Naffa', Dr Munir Hamarinah, and Dr Khalid Hamshawi. Some of them intend to run in the parliamentary elections.

Debt Rescheduling Agreement Reached With Banks

JN1109125289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] A responsible source at the Finance Ministry has made the following statement:

On Saturday and Sunday 9 and 10 September 1989, meetings were held between the Jordanian Government, represented by the finance minister, and the Central Bank governor and the steering committee representing the commerical banks of the London Club to discuss the rescheduling of Jordan's long- and medium-term $1.1 billion debts. The banks comprising the London Club include the Gulf International Bank, the Standard Chartered Bank, the Commercial Bank of Kuwait, the Manufacturers Hanover Trust Corporation, the Union des Banques Arabes et Francais, the Banque Nationale de Paris, and the Arab Bank.

An agreement in principle was reached on rescheduing $575 million due for settlement between 1 January 1989 and 30 June 1991. The agreement will allow the $575 million to be repaid over 11 years, including a 5-year grace period during which interests are to be paid on the rescheduled sums.

Concerning the interest due on the commerical debts of $82 million, Jordan has pledged to repay them as scheduled in 1989.

The agreement should help Jordan's standing in international financial circles and improve Jordan's balance of payments and advance investment prospects in the country.

Editorial Comments on Rising Cost of Living

JN1109111689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Balanced Approach"]

[Text] It is certainly very good news that the government is contemplating amendments to the income tax law with a view to achieving a fairer distribution of tax burdens on citizens. The economic and fiscal hardships that the country has been experiencing of late have of course passed on to the people, especially the low income groups. The double digital inflationary rate in the Kingdom has made it imperative on the government to seek ways and means to ameliorate the conditions of the most affected among the Jordanian people. Lowering the rate of taxation on low income groups will of course help such groups cope with the new economic realities and the high cost of living that ensued thereafter. The question remains is whether such tax measures would be enough to alleviate the crisis that has hit Jordanians with fixed income.

Most probably these much-appreciated taxation amendments will not, by a long shot, be enough to rectify the anguish of many Jordanians who can ill-afford the current inflationary rate. The problem could even become more compound if it ever becomes necessary to lift some of the current subsidies on some of the basic commodities.

It would seem sensible therefore to form an interdepartmental committee to examine this situation from all its angles and to submit thereafter some specific recommendations to resolve what is developing into an unbearable hardship. As things are, the incomes of the lower class in Jordan need to be augmented in one way or another. There are many who no longer can make ends meet and this emerging phenomenon will have social and other implications if left unattended to. There is already a rise in theft cases and before we know it the country could very well end up having a rise in other forms of felonies. That is why any agreement imposed on the country by international monetary institutions must be implemented with a human face. Otherwise the whole exercise will backfire and the end result could become more negative than positive.

In any case, this issue of how to alleviate the rising cost of living in Jordan is a complex one and clearly there is no singular simple and ideal solution. Most probably the answer lies in some balanced approach which can be best

articulated by the proposed inter-governmental committee charged with this specific mandate.

Jordan, Syria Discuss Reactivating Rail Links

JN1109105689 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 89 p 3

[Text] Amman (J.T.)—Launching a joint Jordanian-Syrian maritime route and reactivating the Hijaz Railway line for land transport between Jordan and Syria were among the major topics for discussion between ministers of transport Hikmat al-Khammash of Jordan and Yusuf al-Ahmad of Syria Sunday.

Bilateral cooperation in air transport and training of pilots and other relevant matters were also taken up at the meeting which was attended by delegation members on both sides.

According to the Syrian minister, transporting goods from the Far East to al-'Aqabah by sea and then carrying them by land to Syria by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Transport Company's fleet of trucks and vice versa was discussed in detail at the meeting.

He said that the two sides were putting the finishing touches to the scheme before putting it into force.

Al-Khammash and Al-Ahmad discussed the prospect of reactivating rail transport along the Hijaz Railway which connects Amman with Damascus. Al-Ahmad said that this too was fully discussed with the help of the technical sub-committee which had met earlier at the Syrian border town of Dar'a.

Reactivating rail transport between the two sides will take place following procedural matters, the Syrian minister added. Al-Ahmad noted that his visit to Jordan was to assess, with the Jordanian side, matters relevant to activities of the joint Land and Maritime Transport Companies, and the implementation of resolutions by the joint Jordanian-Syrian Higher Committee meetings about boosting transport activities.

Al-Ahmad said that Syria and Jordan will boost their bilateral cooperation in air transport through training Syrian pilots in Jordan civil aviation training institutes, providing maintenance to Syrian civilian aircraft at Royal Jordanian (RJ) workshops and cooperating in insurance matters for aircraft owned by the Syrian and Jordanian national airlines.

Earlier, the two ministers co-chaired a meeting for the general assembly of the Jordanian-Syrian Land Transport Company.

The company which was established in 1975 is a fruit of close cooperation between the two sides in transport affairs. Al-Khammash said in an oppening speech.

The company's fleet has transported 1.5 million tonnes of goods between Jordan and Syria and the rest of the world since 1986, according to a report released last February after a General Assembly meeting in Damascus.

The current meeting is scheduled to discuss a report by the chairman of the board of directors on operations and future programmes, and will review the company's financial situation in the light of an end of year and final accounts report about 1989 operations.

Paper Says Israel Meddling in U.S. Visa Issue

JN0909081289 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 9 Sep 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Naked Interference"]

[Text] Of all the arrogant idiosyncrasies of Israel, its demand that Washington deny an entry visa to PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat tops them all. If any other country, big or small, dares to tell that superpower who to let in to its territory and who not to, it would be automatically called to order and asked to mind its own business. But of course such conventional ways do not apply to Israel which has been spoiled beyond repair by the U.S. How else can one explain Washington taking this naked interference with its domestic affairs so stoically? The answer lies in the fact that the U.S. Government has got used to such attempted dictates from Tel Aviv and in the process has become callous to them.

Yet in these critical days when silent diplomacies are being launched right and left through and by the U.S., it becomes incumbent on Washington to show ability to free itself from the whims and orders of Israel by manifesting a rare political will to stand up to Israel in no uncertain way. If, on the subject of whether to issue Mr. 'Arafat an entry visa to address the U.N. General Assembly—which is not such a big deal anyway—the U.S. government cannot act independently of Israel, then what hope remains to more substantive issues dividing the Arab and the Israeli sides? Can Washington still maintain its liberty to think freely and objectively? There is no need to remind Israel that the issuance of entry visas to officials wanting to address any session of the U.N. General Assembly is a matter that comes within the Headquarters Agreement with the U.S. and there is not much Washington can do about the terms of that agreement except to respect them or risk repudiating them and then lose stature and face. The most honourable thing then to do now in the wake of Israel's insistence to act as the spokesman of the U.S. State Department on the issue of granting a visa to Mr. 'Arafat is to ask it in the most direct manner to stop meddling in U.S. internal affairs. Such a blunt gesture would indeed fortify the emerging faith and trust in the U.S. brokerage in the Middle East.

'Awn on U.S. Position, National Reconciliation

NC1209082589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] In an interview published in the French magazine LIBERATION, Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has accused the United States of being part of a conspiracy aimed at dividing Lebanon into two sections controlled by Syria and Israel. Lebanon, 'Awn added, will thus cease to exist.

'Awn said: I do not expect anything from the United States, which has evacuated its embassy personnel from Lebanon. It is clear, unless it proves otherwise, that the United States is continuing to support Syrian policies in Lebanon, not by sending guns that Syria does not need, but by giving that country enough time to gain control of Lebanon.

'Awn accused the United States of pressuring Iraq to prevent it from supplying the Lebanese Army with weapons.

'Awn said that over the past 6 months he had succeeded in isolating Syria on the Arab and inernational levels. He voiced the belief that the imposition of economic sanctions on Syria could be helpful.

'Awn added that the observation of a cease-fire, the lifting of the siege, and a full or partial Syrian withdrawal—particularly the removal of heavy-caliber artillery from the hills overlooking the eastern areas—could pave the ground for talks among the Lebanese.

'Awn said that he supports the introduction of radical reforms in the political system in order to accommodate the aspirations and rights of all the Lebanese groups. The goal, he said, is to revive Lebanon as a united country in which pluralism is respected.

Concerning negotiations on political reforms, 'Awn said that these negotiations can be held before the election of a president of the Republic. He said: Should national reconciliation be achieved, we may even be able to do without a president.

As for the war of liberation, 'Awn said that it is just starting and that the Lebanese people are getting ready for rebellion. He said that the acts of resistance will increase, but noted that the prevention of the supply of weapons to all parties is always in the interest of the stronger side.

Commenting on France's policy in Lebanon, 'Awn said that it is convincing and morally correct. He added that France has to take into account the pressures being exerted by some friendly countries.

More on U.S. Embassy Closing; Possible Reopening

AL-ITTIHAD Views Reopening

NC0909100389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The Abu Dhabi paper AL-ITTIHAD has indicated that Arab efforts are currently being made to persuade the United States to return its ambassador to Beirut and to reopen its embassy there as this step will constitute Washington's support for the tripartite committee's efforts.

The paper adds that General 'Awn has conveyed official assurances to the United States, pledging to ensure the security and safety of the U.S. diplomats in Beirut. Lebanese Ambassador in Washington 'Abdallah abu Habib informed the U.S. Defense Secretary of this pledge.

The paper cites U.S. State Department sources as having said that the U.S. Government is now reassessing the situation in light of the changes in Lebanon and considering whether or not the situation there allows the return of its diplomatic mission to Beirut. These sources ruled out the return of U.S. Ambassador John McCarthy and the reopening of the U.S. Embassy soon, indicating that this might take months.

Phalangist Party Leader Comments

NC1109150289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Phalangist Party leader George Sa'adah chaired a meeting of the party's Political Bureau at 1330 today. The meeting ended a few minutes ago. Sa'adah began the meeting by mentioning the resumption of the Arab tripartite committee's work was accompanied by positive signals. Sa'adah hoped for serious efforts by the committee which has produced a basically sound analysis of the Lebanese crisis. [passage omitted]

Sa'adah said that the evacuation of U.S. Embassy personnel from Lebanon has done more damage to the United States than to the situation in Lebanon. Expressing his astonishment, Sa'adah said: Was a demonstration in front of the U.S. Embassy enough reason to evacuate the entire diplomatic personnel? Hardly a week passes without protests in many countries against the United States and its embassies, protests that are accompanied by many acts of violence to which the Lebanese are not accustomed. Does the United States close down these embassies as it did in Lebanon? Sa'adah asked.

The phalangist leader called on the U.S. Administration to take another, and more realistic, look at its move. The U.S. Administration should have been more sympathetic to the demands of a people who live in bomb shelters and are subjected to the worst kinds of terror and destruction. Now that the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has interrupted its normal services these people now have to

suffer the additional humiliation of lining up before the U.S. Embassies in Damascus and Cyprus to do business.

PSP on Embassy Closure

NC1109174989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] The political bureau of the Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] met under Lieutenant Colonel Sharif Fayyad, deputy party leader and secretary general. It discussed recent developments and issued the following statement:

1. The political bureau discussed the decision to close the U.S. Embassy and to evacuate its staff and the announcements by U.S. officials that 'Awn's policy, stands, and statements were responsible for this decision. While the political bureau is not surprised at this, it regards the decision as a natural outcome of the U.S. policy which wagers on military establishments and their deviations. The bureau holds that these establishments have never been a guarantee and a shield for the homeland's borders in relation to the Israeli occupation and consequently have never justified their existence. Indeed, these establishments have been used as instruments to repress all popular movements and demands, to smother democratic liberties, and to defend in desperation the system of political Maronism, which is a system of privileges and monopolies. This U.S. wager on the military establishment which the United States supplied with finance, patronage, arms, training, protection, and a cover is accompanied by a U.S. wager on the extremist and racist forces in the Christian ranks. This wager went to a point that made Michel 'Awn, the leader of the military clique, and those extremist and racist forces believe that they should guide U.S. policy and use it and issue warnings and threats to the employees of the U.S. Embassy in 'Awkar if the embassy did not fulfill their desires and requests.

The PSP's political bureau again draws the attention of the United States to the perils of its policy in Lebanon and urges it to make a radical change in this policy. It is imperative to attain a just political settlement that will establish principles of justice and equality, demonstrate Lebanon's Arabism, and produce a patriotic army capable of defending the borders and of carrying out its duties, specifically in the South. Such an army, based on such principles, will disprove all of Israel's pretexts and justifications for not withdrawing and implementing UN resolutions, particularly Resolution 425.

The PSP's political bureau reemphasizes that it is impossible for the military dictatorship's plan to succeed. The bureau insists on adhering to democractic liberties which can only be guaranteed by a system of justice and equality. It is time for such a system to be born and to stop the bloodbath and avoid further victims and losses in Lebanon.

2. The PSP's political bureau discussed the Arab tripartite committee's decision to resume its mission. While the party welcomes this decision, it recalls that the Lebanese National Front, which formerly assisted the committee, will continue to offer it all possible assistance. The National Front stresses its adherence to the need that the committee's work should proceed from the Casablanca summit's resolutions.

While stressing the importance of the reference in the nonaligned summit's final statement to Lebanon and the tripartite committee's mission on the basis of the Casablanca summit's resolutions, and the direct blame attributed to Israel regarding the Lebanese crisis, the PSP hopes that the leaders of the member states of the tripartite committee and the committee's members will not submit to any pressures, will pay sufficient attention to the Lebanese issue, and will perceive the perils of the crusader scheme aimed not only at Lebanon but at the Arab nation and its unity. [passage omitted]

Hizballah Commentary Views U.S.-'Awn Relations

NC1109110589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Political commentary: "Another General?"]

[Excerpts] As we have repeatedly stated in previous commentaries, America, which replaced Britain and France as the undisputed leader of imperialism in the Third World in the post-war period, has chosen a single strong and disciplined institution through which to impose its direct or indirect hegemony on that world. That institution is the military one—the armies, or what is sometimes called the brass [al-'askaritaria] in political literature.

There are several reasons for this choice. Among them is the fact that the Third World has been pillaged by imperialism and debilitated by a succession of wars, coups d'etat, and agent and treacherous leaders. Given no respite in which to rebuild themselves and establish capable systems of political and diplomatic representation, Third World countries lack any political institutions that are derived from the people and aim to serve them. In the absence of political parties and of anti-imperialist moral rectitude, the Third World has left only one institution capable of imposing law and order: namely, the army.

It should also be mentioned that America, a newcomer in the world of imperialism which has replaced older types of colonialism, could not afford the time to win the hearts and minds of people by such means as culture, fashion, or long-term economic plans. Seeking a quick way to power, America chose to operate through two institutions: the defense ministry and the central bank. [passage omitted]

Since the fifties, examples abound of coups which were inspired by the Americans. There have been coups in which the Americans abandoned former agents and collaboraters to the blows of army generals and personnel. Iraq's Faysal, Egypt's Faruq, Yemen's al-Badr,

Ethiopia's emperor, and many former servants of America have been overthrown in this manner.

Whenever the Americans felt their horse was starting to limp, they immediately supplied a replacement—a crown prince, a deputy chairman of the revolutionary command council, or a commander-in-chief, functionaries who have only one thing in common: an urge to win and abuse the people's trust.

Only recently, the Americans ended [former Tunisian President] Bourguiba's rule peacefully. They also brought to an end the rule of General Ziaul Haq of Pakistan in a straightforward manner. This is discussed in a new book by an American journalist.

Will General 'Awn be their latest victim? Has the head of the separatist military government in Lebanon served his purpose? Almost a year ago, 'Awn occupied B'abda Palace in what was seen as the first military coup in Lebanon since the aborted attempt in 1961, and set about giving military expression to Maronite politics. [passage omitted]

Whipping up the emotions of the Maronite youth, 'Awn launched himself on a suicidal course, which he called a war of liberation. He tapped the fanatical mood in the racist ghetto situated between Kafr Shima and al-Madfun, but he miscalculated. His goals clashed with the logic of the times, the requirements of international detente, and the emergence of new forces. 'Awn thought he was a major player while in fact he was just another insignificant pawn on the regional chess board.

Israel had an interest in upsetting the Syrian role in Lebanon and in upstaging the true intifadah [uprising] in the West Bank and Gaza with an artificial intifadah staged by a deranged army commander against the Lebanese people, constitutional institutions, and spiritual and political leaders.

America might have acquiesced initially in 'Awn's plans in an attempt to attenuate Syria's opposition to Camp David. However, with the evacuation of the American Embassy and with 'Awn in an impasse, does Washington have another general who is more flexible and whose position is more in line with the terms of settlement of which it approves? The current embarrassment calls for a denouement. Are we about to see the end of the first episode of a long American soap opera?

Fadlallah Says U.S. Promoting Own Policy

NC0809173989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has voiced the opinion that the Lebanese situation will not draw to a happy conclusion unless a public referendum is held to determine the type of government and the character of the ruler. Fadlallah said: There is a green light concerning the security question, but the political issue is on hold.

Fadlallah said that the United States is promoting its own policies and interests which are sympathetic to Israeli interests. [passage omitted]

For his part, Shaykh Sa'id Sha'ban, leader of the Islamic Unification Movement, has blamed the United States for the current impasse in Lebanon. Washington's main goal, he said, is to confront the intifadah [uprising] and the Islamic awakening.

Sources Deny 'Awn Contacts With Syria

NC1209074489 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Commenting on the statement made Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' that General Michel 'Awn used to contact Damascus with a view to becoming president, sources close to the prime minister said that this statement is one of the typical Syrian delusions and does not deserve a response.

In an interview with the Saudi newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Faruq al-Shar' had said that Gen 'Awn held these contacts with Syria before and after becoming prime minister. [passage omitted]

Syria Reportedly Pledges Withdrawal Scheduling

NC1109173689 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Quoting diplomatic sources, the CENTRAL NEWS AGENCY reported today that the Arab tripartite committee has obtained a pledge from Syria to schedule its withdrawal [from Lebanon] and that it has decided to resume its mission because there are many positive signs indicating it can implement its view on how to resolve the situation in Lebanon. It pointed out that Soviet Envoy Gennadie Tarasov might return to Damascus after meeting with Denis Ross, director of planning at the U.S. State Department, last weekend to give a new impetus to the Arab committee.

The agency also quoted Arab sources as saying that the atmosphere now is appropriate for the committee to resume its mission and that Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn has approved a mechanism to monitor the cease-fire, lift the blockades, and monitor the entry of arms. It has been learned, according to the agency, that this mechanism, which is still being discussed, concentrates on the establishment of an Arab-international observation body under the Arab committee's supervision.

'Awn, Ja'ja' To Deal 'Positively' With Arabs

NC0909110389 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] AL-NAHAR newspaper reports that a meeting was held between Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' on Thursday night. During the 2 and 1/2-hour meeting, they

discussed political and security developments, especially the Arab committee's resumption of its mission and the way to deal with this matter. The discussions also touched on some security and military arrangements for the coming phase and the evacuation of the U.S. diplomatic mission staff from Beirut.

AL-NAHAR indicates that General 'Awn and Dr Ja'ja' agreed to cooperate positively with the Arab efforts and to keep abreast of the contacts that will be held during the coming phase so as to maintain a unified stand in dealing positively with the Arab committee's proposals.

Al-Rasi Says 'Awn 'Will Go' Within 3 Months

NC0809142589 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1300 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi said today that the U.S. Administration decided to close its embassy in Beirut following unacceptable actions and threats by Michel 'Awn. In an interview with our radio, he added that it has been decided that the embassy would remain closed for 3 months. This is an indication that Michel 'Awn will go before the end of this period, he said.

Answering a question, Dr al-Rasi stated: I do not think there has been any change in U.S. policy except regarding Michel 'Awn. It has become clear to the Americans that this man is unreasonable and unacceptable and an obstacle to the achievement of reconciliation. He added that many Christians have expressed their opposition to 'Awn's actions and the terrorism he imposed on the Christians in the eastern areas and on the Lebanese in general.

Regarding the Arab tripartite committee, Dr al-Rasi said: There is one very important thing, which is that the ministerial committee has become convinced of the mistake it made. It has returned with a new concept, which is that the cease-fire and the lifting of the blockade should be accompanied by supervision to prevent weapons reaching any of the parties to the conflict.

Amal Movement Delegation Leaves for Tehran

NC0809164889 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] An Amal Movement delegation led by Dr Ayyub Humayyid, chairman of the movement's executive committee, has left Beirut for Damscus en route to Tehran to congratulate Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani on his election as president.

According to Amal sources, the delegation is expected to open an office in Tehran during the visit.

Birri Wants End to 'Political Sectarianism'

NC0809170989 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Amal Movement leader Minister Nabih Birri said today that the Lebanese National Front rejects the political plan which has been submitted or leaked by the tripartite committee regarding the Lebanese crisis. He said: What the National Front will accept is clear. It is either the termination of political sectarianism or a transitional period during which political sectarianism will be applied on a rotational basis.

Minister Birri expressed the hope that the leaders of political Maronism will realize that neither the compassionate mother [France], who did not reach the Lebanese coast, nor the tender loving father [the United States], who has left the hills of al-Yarzah and 'Awkar, is of any use to them. He noted that as long as political Maronism does not announce its acceptance of a political solution, the most that the tripartite committee can achieve is a return to the situation that prevailed before 14 March. He added: Even this, which General 'Awn has been rejecting, may become acceptable to him.

Minister Birri declared: We are not in need of any royal committees just in order to achieve a cease-fire or a security truce which would give 'Awn breathing space so he can start a new war in Lebanon. The Lebanese need a political solution. Either a solution which puts an end to this regime is achieved, or there will be no need for an Arab 17 May [date of the Lebanese-Israeli agreement in 1983].

PSP Leader Junblatt on Current Issues

NC0909180189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Progressive Socialist Party [PSP] leader Walid Junblatt has stressed that no solution is near. He noted that the presence of Michel 'Awn and the support he is getting is the main obstacle.

In an interview with Swiss-Italian television, Junblatt said: We are once again waiting for the efforts of the Arab countries and the Arab ministerial committee. But the main obstacle is General 'Awn's presence and the support he is getting from Iraq, some Arab countries, the PLO, and also, to some extent, from Jordan. I believe that all these factors are negative ones and I do not know whether the Arabs can overcome these obstacles. We will see.

Asked about his view of Lebanon's future, Junblatt said: Regardless of what has been said and is being said, our crisis is linked in one form or another to the Middle East crisis, but it could be possible to reach an agreement on coexistence and a kind of a solution, the Lebanese way, with the Maronites, in order to avert further bloodshed and destruction, pending the Israeli withdrawal from the South. This withdrawal is essential.

Asked whether he believes that the Israeli withdrawal should take place together with a Syrian withdrawal, he said: The two cases are completely different because we, the Lebanese, asked the Syrians to come. We invited them in a legitimate way. But what the Israelis did was to invade Lebanon, no more and no less, in a military operation. As far as we are concerned, Syria is not a problem. I am speaking as a Muslim; you can ask the Christians who are not under Michel 'Awn's control the same question.

Asked whether the nature of the war in Lebanon is religious or civil, Junblatt said: It is a civil war whose basic aspect is the conflict between the deprived and those who enjoy political and economic influence. The majority of the Lebanese, both Muslims and Christians, belong to the deprived class. Go and see the Christians who live outside Kasrawan. They are just as poor as the Muslims. Junblatt added: Our party is 40 years old and let us say that we are social democrats. One day the democratic game will return to Lebanon and then we will be able to consolidate the supremacy of the peaceful law, the law for all.

On whether the Lebanese people have a sense of national affiliation despite the existence of a number of warring factions, he added: The divisions exists and so does the sense of nationalism. There is, in addition to this, a sense of belonging to Arabism. We consider Lebanon to be part of the Arab homeland. There is a faction that says that Lebanon is part of the West or that it is the private domain of some privileged ones, a part of the Maronite tribe. Herein lies the conflict among the Lebanese. If we analyze the problem in-depth from the social and economic aspects, we can reach equality among the Lebanese and narrow the gap of political differences among the Lebanese.

Asked if the game in Lebanon is being conducted by foreign forces, Junblatt said: The game in our country is always conducted by foreign forces. Everyone has always fought over our territories. The time has come for all of this to stop. We have paid a heavy price and Lebanon is a beautiful country.

Asked if the solution is near, Junblatt answered: I do not think so because I know quite well the mentality of some of the Maronites. A military man is today in a position of power. I do not believe that the solution is emminent because I know the Iraqi regime very well and the hatred that some Arab regimes are nourishing against us and against Syria.

As to whether the great or Western powers can do anything, he said: The Western countries have on several occasions formed political blocs in Lebanon but failed. I believe that they can only take a single course, namely to start a serious dialogue with Syria as this will will help Lebanon a lot.

Regarding the French role, the PSP leader: I believe that everyone was against it at one time but French envoy Francois Scheer has returned things to their normal course. An understanding with France is necessary, a France that understands the interests of all the Lebanese—the interests of the united, Arab Lebanon—and the reforms.

On the departure of the U.S. ambassador and embassy staff from the eastern area, he said: The time has come for the Americans to understand that backing the Lebanese Army without political reforms was an error right from the start. The time has come for them to understand that this step is the result of their backing the extremist Maronites in Lebanon: Bashir al-Jumayyil at first, then Amin al-Jumayyil, and Michel 'Awn today.

Junblatt was asked about another matter that is internationally important, namely the visit the Pope hopes to make to Lebanon. He replied: There is no problem, but he has to visit everyone because if he wants to visit the Christians alone and pray there, this will only increase the divisions between Muslims and Christians and will not be positive. We will welcome him if he comes to our areas and ensure all the necessary security measures for him. I do not believe that he needs security. No one is against him.

Asked finally about the hostage issue and how it could be solved, Junblatt said: The matter is very simple. The problem is between the Americans and Iran, no more and no less.

Differences Between Army, Lebanese Forces Denied

NC1009080189 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Excerpts] AL-DIYAR paper has quoted a prominent source in the eastern area as saying that media in the western areas have launched a concerted campaign about alleged differences within the ranks in the eastern area, particularly between the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Forces. The same source adds that these claims were accompanied by rumors aimed at undermining internal unity within the eastern area. [passage omitted]

The source added that the relationship between the Army and the Lebanese Forces is better than it has ever been, both in terms of practical and field coordination between the two military powers and the political understanding between Prime Minister General Michel 'Awn and Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja'. The source pointed out that during their latest meeting, Dr Ja'ja' and Gen 'Awn fully agreed that the political administration of the current situation requires prior and direct coordination between them so a unified stand can be adopted on all initiatives. They also agreed on the outlines of future steps at both the foreign and domestic levels.

Commentary on Need To Adhere to War Option

NC1009112489 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Political commentary: "Deceptive Truce"]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful: Although we live in a time when policies change from day to day and politicians, who enjoy various privileges, base their actions on which way the wind is blowing, there are strong deterrents and firm safeguards in our Islamic society against such a vacillation of plans and chaos of ideas. [passage omitted]

The leaders of Muslim society must adhere to the war option which this society deems good and useful and must make preparations for it. When a nation unanimously agrees on the war option as inevitable and knows that any other course of action will only prolong its suffering and the life of its enemy, then there is no choice but to adopt this option whatever the circumstances, even if it is then said that insanity afflicts this nation or that terrorism controls it. When a nation chooses the war option, it becomes an idea and a goal that must be achieved. Otherwise the idea is lost and the people lose sight of the primary goal. The nation would then go astray and lose all its aims and ideas. [passage omitted]

Proposals have been put forward for, among other things, a partial or full reformation of the Lebanese regime and for 'Awn's departure or for his staying on as a symbol of the legitimacy of political Maronism but abandoning his war of liberation slogan. These proposals raise dozens of questions, including one being asked by the poor: What do you want? What is the idea you aspire to realize? What is the objective you seek to attain?

Along with the talk about the return of the Arab tripartite committee, ailing along with one of its most prominent members, Fahd ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz, and along with the atmosphere of ill feeling and dismay prevailing between 'Awn and his entourage and the U.S. Administration, numerous proposals that the people had listened to and tried to understand for many weeks and months have been taken off the table. After the people had assured and promised themselves that a final and decisive solution to their crisis was near, they started to hear other words, of the kind they hear each time they score any major achievement or clear victory. [passage omitted]

As we have already emphasized the sick tripartite committee will enter the intensive care unit behind its King Fahd and might die along with him of the grave illness from which he suffers. A final divorce between the U.S. Administration and the scheme of political Maronism with its clear objectives in Lebanon will not occur. It is wrong to count on getting anything from the host of Maronites in the eastern area, be they the alleged moderates or the obvious extremists. We must rely instead on this proud and sacrificing people and on the need to eradicate the very roots of the regime and establish a state of dignified and proud people in its place. We must also rely on binding Lebanon to the Arab and Islamic world so that it does not turn into a Maronistan like the Zionistan in usurped Palestine. Peace and the mercy of God be upon you.

Fadlallah Advocates Arab Intervention in Lebanon

NC1009165689 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] 'Allamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah has said that Arab intervention to resolve the Lebanese crisis is an urgent necessity. He noted that by virtue of the comprehensive approval it has from the parties to the conflict in Lebanon and by virtue of the confidence it has from the Lebanese people in general, the Arab tripartite committee can exercise an effective and productive role. 'Allamah Fadlallah explained that the tripartite committee must, this time, take into consideration that the conflict is essentially inter-Lebanese since the Lebanese really disagree about the regime, and this disagreement must be resolved without fighting.

Al-Husayni Rejects APU Meeting on Lebanon

NC1109161789 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Speaker of the Chamber of Deputies Husayn al-Husayni has rejected a call to convene the Arab Parliamentary Union [APU]. In a cable to the APU chairman in Abu Dhabi, he rejected the call made by [Palestine National Council Speaker] Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih to convene an extraordinary APU session to discuss the situation in Lebanon. Speaker al-Husayni explained that the call to convene such a meeting and the sense of Arab responsibility shown is inadequate following the initiative of Arab tripartite committee formed by the Casablanca summit. He expressed fear that this call would confuse the Arab committee's mission.

National Bloc Leader Raymon Iddih Interviewed

PM3008145789 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 28 Aug 89 pp 13-15

[Telephone interview with National Bloc leader Raymon Iddih in Cote d'Azur by Ibrahim al-Burjawi in London; date unspecified]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Asked about his opinion of the French position, Iddih said: Had French President Francois Mitterrand not made a move, nobody else would have moved. He dispatched his envoys to world leaders, including the pope, who, true, does not possess tanks—as Stalin wondered at the beginning of World War II when he announced his backing of the allies—but has great international moral influence. He spoke to the French envoy and before that, in a statement, spoke in favor of Lebanon, its survival, and stability. He also spoke about and condemned the Syrian role, but no one

had the courage to talk about Syrian involvement. Even the Gorbachev-Mitterrand statement issued on 5 July in Paris urged an immediate cease-fire, but there was no reference to Syria or the Syrian forces. Is that not embarrassing, especially as it is the statement that urged the Security Council to intervene? The Lebanese and most of the French, alarmed by the brutal acts in Lebanon, had hoped that President Hafiz al-Asad would cease his offensive immediately. But what happened was the opposite: He did not stop his forces' offensive. In fact he doubled it. And Syria says that it did not shell the Lebanese. So if it did not do that, who did? Is it China that is shelling Lebanon?

France sent a frigate to the Lebanese coasts to raise some people's morale. France is going close to Lebanon not to fight, but to enable people to strengthen their willpower. And I have just learned that the French aircraft carrier "Foch" too has headed for Lebanese territorial waters.

Answering a question on his view of the Arab tripartite committee's position, Iddih said: Thanks to the Arabs. Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, sent me an invitation to visit Kuwait, but I apologized. I do not want to waste my time and theirs. It is the responsibility of the Arab League and the Arab kings and presidents to put pressure on the United States to order Israel to implement Security Council resolutions. I am not saying that the Syrians have or don't have the right to to stay on Lebanon's territory, nor am I discussing that point. Israel, and Syria too, must withdraw from Lebanese territory. I used to differentiate between the Israeli occupation and the Syrian presence, but not after Michel 'Awn sent a cable demanding the Syrian forces' withdrawal from Lebanon. Amin al-Jumayyil too preceded him in demanding that.

[Al-Burjawi] You are known to be against the military's interference in politics. So what has changed and prompted you to change your position and support 'Awn?

[Iddih] I supported Michel 'Awn, despite the fact that I am against the military's interference in politics. This is because he came under exceptional circumstances, as there was no one to run the country's affairs after Amin al-Jumayyil's term ended. I did not appoint him, but he is now in charge.

In my view, 'Awn is a human being who does not exploit the defense budget like others. He is a military man in every sense of the word. All the people—Syrians and others—who are shelling Beirut now are after Michel 'Awn's head. So if they get hold of the Suq al-Gharb front—a 5-square mile area—'Awn will be the first to be hanged. Despite this, he continues to defend the homeland with an army comprising those who represent the homeland—Christians, Muslims, and Druze. Syria is mobilizing all its forces against Lebanon. Why does the Syrian Army not fight Israel? Why does Syria not allow the Palestinians to arm themselves on its territory? Why did Syria not defend Lebanon against the Israeli invasion in 1982? Why does it not fight in the Golan? And why does it want Lebanon alone to be a stage for its slogans, which it does not apply on its territory?

[Al-Burjawi] Would you support 'Awn if he runs for the Presidency?

[Iddih] I am against the military's interference in politics, and I am against the military's interference in power. The same applies to Michel 'Awn. But I support and back him in his current battle. [passage omitted]

Amal Movement Dismantles Rockets Aimed at Israel

NC0809201089 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Excerpts] The Amal Movement has said that it defused five rockets which were primed to be fired at Israel from Shaqra near Bint Jubayl, north of the security border. [passage omitted]

Israeli forces today arrested four citizens in the South, including a woman and a man from Kafr Shuba and two young men from Majdal Zun, and took them to al-Khiyam prison.

In another development, an explosive charge went off 30 meters away from a patrol of the Norwegian contingent operating within the United Nations force. The explosion, which took place in the eastern sector of the border area today, caused no casualties.

National Front Group Kills Army Personnel

NC0909093589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0430 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The National Front issued a statement last night saying that one of its groups laid an ambush behind the Army's lines in the Duhur Shuwayr area of the 'Ayn al-Tufahah axis at 1730. The statement adds: The men manning the ambush fired rockets and opened machinegun fire at an Army personnel carrier transporting Army elements to their position, thus destroying the vehicle and killing its occupants. The group withdrew safely to its base.

Israeli Troops, Commando Unit Clash in South

NC1109142389 Paris AFP in English: 1200 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Sept 11 (AFP)—Israeli troops clashed Monday with a guerrilla commando unit in southern Lebanon as it was trying to infiltrate northern Israel, regional security sources reported.

They said the confrontation, with automatic and anti-tank weapons, caused several casualties on both sides.

The clash occurred at 1:00 p.m. (1000 GMT) just one kilometer north of the Israeli-Lebanese border near the Shiite village of Kfarkila and in the eastern sector of the Israeli-imposed "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

A helicopter landed at the scene 20 minutes after the exchange and evacuated an unspecified number of casualties, sources said.

The Army later launched a big search of the area, committing 120 troops and some 50 tanks and armoured vehicles as well as two helicopters.

An Israeli soldier and one of his attackers were killed late Saturday several kilometers (miles) to the east of the site of Monday's clash in an assault claimed by the Lebanese National Resistance Front, a coalition of Lebanese leftist parties.

Rocket attacks and infiltration attempts have intensified in southern Lebanon, according to Israel's military radio, since Israeli forces on July 28 kidnapped a Shiite militant in the area, Shaykh 'Abd-al-Karim 'Ubayd.

Israeli Force Replaces Lahd Militia in Shwayya

NC1109165589 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Our correspondent in the eastern sector of the South has reported that the Zionist occupation forces carried out an unexpected measure this morning when they dismissed agent Lahd's personnel from Shwayya, which is adjacent to the occupied border zone. The occupation forces replaced the Lahd personnel with a Zionist armored force, estimated at 50 troops and 10 military vehicles, including Merkava tanks.

Group Claims Killing 3 Syrian Soldiers

NC0909161889 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1345 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The Martyr Riyad Taha group has announced that its units carried out the following operations against the Syrian occupation army this week:

A sergeant in the Syrian special units was killed on the Shlifa-Dayr al-Ahmar road on Monday night; Syrian soldier Husayn Khalluf from the 62d brigade was killed on the Majdal Ba'na-Sawfar road; and one Syrian soldier was killed on the al-Hadath-'Ayn al-Jadidah road.

Syrian Gunboats Open Fire on Hydrofoil

NC1109140789 Paris AFP in English 1353 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Beirut, Sept 11 (AFP)—Syrian gunboats opened fire Monday on a hydrofoil with 330 passengers fleeing the latest violence in Lebanon, as Syria stepped up its blockade of the country's Christian ports, shipping sources said.

The Santa Maria came under fire outside Lebanese territorial waters, some 20 nautical miles from the coast, the sources said. It was not hit, and it pursued its voyage to the southern Cypriot port of Larnaca.

The hydrofoil docks at the Christian port of Juniyah, north of Beirut, and provides the only ferry service between the region held by troops loyal to Christian leader General Michel 'Awn and the outside world. [passage omitted]

Syrians Tighten Sea Blockade; Tow Ships North

NC1109185689 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1615 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Quoting maritime sources, the Central News Agency reports that the Syrians have tightened their blockade of the eastern area coast. Their cruisers have resumed patrols inside and outside territorial waters. In addition to searching ships on the high sea, they have resorted to acts of piracy in international waters. They managed to tow some supply ships, en route to the eastern area's coast, to the north, where they confiscated their cargo and transported it to Syria. A Syrian cruiser chased and fired at the ship Carla. The ship Tinax Star has managed to return to Cyprus after being subjected to a similar incident.

The same sources said that the hydrofoil Santa Maria was fired on by a Syrian cruiser today but that it managed to enter Juniyah Port and then make its first trip today.

The maritime sources expressed their fear that the Syrians might continue their attacks, threatening the safety of passengers and of commercial shipping.

Resistance Front Reports on Mt Hermon Fighting

NC1109125789 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] The command of the National Resistance Front issued a military communique today in which it said that the heroic confrontation between the strugglers, the comrades of Suha Bisharah and Anwar Yasin, and the occupation forces continued on the slopes of Mount Hermon and in the al-'Urqub area all day yesterday and until late last night. The front launched several rocket attacks against the forces which the enemy brought in to search the area and besiege the steadfast resistance fighters in al-'Urqub. The military communique added that the resistance fighters heard the enemy forces calling on al-'Urqub's citizens to assemble outside their houses. It said a clash took place on the slopes of Mount Hermon when a hostile force accompanied by helicopters attempted to advanced northward. This confrontation stopped the enemy advance. The command of the Resistance Front has announced that it will distribute a map accompanied by pictures of the positions which the Front's units attacked during the fighting.

Army Vehicle, Gun Destroyed in Fighting

NC1109145989 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Intermittent clashes with machineguns and rockets have been taking place on the al-'Ayrun-al-Dawwar combat lines in northern al-Matn since shortly after midday today. It has been reported that an al-Yarzah army vehicle carrying a 106-mm gun has been destroyed and its occupants either killed or wounded.

Machinegun fire has been exchanged on the al-Shiyah, al-Barid, and al-Matahin confrontation lines in the Southern Suburb. Fighting with mortars, rockets, and machineguns also occurred there at 1100 today.

There were exchanges of machinegun fire on the Ra's al-Nab', Sodeco, and Primo lines in the capital at noon today. These followed similar security incidents in the morning.

AFP has reported that 7 people died and 28 were injured in the security incidents provoked by the al-Yarzah army's gangs yesterday. It also reported that 788 have been killed and 3,800 wounded since 14 March when Michel 'Awn, the leader of the military clique, declared his so-called liberation war.

Communists Claim Responsibility for Infiltration

NC1109130589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1250 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] According to urgent reports from the South, violent clashes broke out between an Israeli patrol and an armed group which tried to infiltrate northern Israel at 1300 today. The reports indicate that heavy casualties were inflicted on both sides. Security sources said that the fighting took place near Kafr Killa, 1 km from the Israeli border within the zone known as the Galilee Panhandle. The Lebanese Communist Party has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Amal, SSNP Gunmen Involved in Heavy Fighting

NC1109131989 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1305 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] According to security reports from western al-Biqa', violent clashes have been raging between gunmen from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP]-'Isam al-Mahayri wing and the Amal Movement in Mashgharah and 'Aytanit since 1400 today. Heavy artillery and medium-caliber weapons are being used in the fighting. We have just been informed that the clashes have so far left a number of people dead or wounded.

4 Wounded, 4 Kidnapped

NC1209070589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Four persons were wounded and at least four others kidnapped during the violent clashes between gunmen from the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] led by 'Isam al-Mahayri and others from the Amal Movement in 'Aytanit and Mashgharah in al-Biqa', which are under the control of the Syrian occupation forces.

The clashes began at 1300 and continued well into the evening yesterday. Each side set up roadblocks to detain members of the other side.

Syria Sponsors' Meeting

NC1209124389 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] A Syrian-sponsored meeting attended by representatives of the Amal Movement and the Syrian Social Nationalist Party [SSNP] led by 'Isam al-Mahayri took place in Jubb Jannin in al- Biqa' to resolve the dispute which arose between the two parties in western al-Biqa' yesterday, in which two persons were wounded. During the meeting, the two parties exchanged the people who had been kidnapped.

An Amal Movement source said that the incident was an isolated one and had been resolved. He added: We have agreed to conduct an investigation into the causes of the dispute and asked armed personnel from the two parties to keep away from the scene of incident. Syrian forces instituted patrols in the 'Aytanit and Mashgharah areas and erected roadblocks after the two parties' gunmen had withdrawn.

National Resistance Claims Kafr Killa Operation

NC1109173189 (Clandestine) Voice of the Mountain in Arabic to Lebanon 1400 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] The National Resistance Front has claimed responsibility for the operation which resistance fighters carried out against the occupation forces in the Kafr Killa border area this afternoon. AFP has cited a security source in the south as saying that two resistance fighters were martyred and two Israeli soldiers wounded, one gravely, in the fighting.

'Heavy' Fighting Continues in Mountain Areas

NC1109152289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1444 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Heavy clashes continue to rage along the combat lines of al-Tayyunah and Dar al-Kitab in the Southern Suburb. Shells are failing on nearby residential areas. Furthermore, clashes involving machineguns and rockets are currently raging along the Ra's al-Nab',

Primo, al-Barjawi, Museum, and al-Barbir lines. Meanwhile, skirmishes are taking place in 'Aytat and Suq al-Gharb in the mountain.

Hizballah Group Kidnaps 2 Christian Citizens

NC1109174289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] As one of the practices against Christian citizens in the areas under the Syrian occupation, a Hizballah group, in coordination with the Syrian intelligence, has kidnapped Dayr al-Ahmar inhabitants Edward Fakhri and Antoine Rahmah. The inhabitants of Dayr al-Ahmar resented this incident. A delegation raised the matter with Syrian intelligence and asked about the fate of the kidnapped persons. The occupation intelligence members refused to interfere and referred the delegation to former Speaker Husayn al-Husayni to deal with the problem.

2 Killed, 10 Wounded in Intermittent Clashes

NC1109195289 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1915 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Intermittent clashes involving machineguns, rockets, and artillery fire are taking place on the Galerie Sim'an lines in the Southern Suburb and on the Dahr-al-Wahsh-'Alayh and Suq al-Gharb-'Aytat lines in the mountain area.

The intensity of the shelling of the eastern areas has eased after having covered the central and coastal areas of Northern al- Matn, 'Arraya, Bsus, Kahhalah, al-Jumhur, Furn al-Shubbak, 'Ayn al- Rummanah, al-Hadath, al-Hazimiyah, and al-Ashrafiyah.

According to inconlusive statistics, the Syrian atacks against the eastern areas resulted in killing 2 persons and wounding 10 others. [passage omitted]

Group Claims Attack on Syrians in Tripoli

NC1209122189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1115 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] The 16 January Organization for the Liberation of Tripoli said that a group of its members attacked a Syrian occupation army roadblock near the Jesuit School in al-Haykaliyah at 0315 today. The group said that it injured two Syrians in the attack, and vowed to continue its operations to drive the Syrian occupiers out of the country.

Lebanese Officials Hold Talks in Damascus

Received by Khaddam

JN1109123489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam received at 1100 today Nabih Birri, Amal movement leader and minister of justice and south reconstruction; Walid Junblatt, leader of the Progressive Socialist Party and minister of public works and tourism; and former minister Marwan Hamadah.

During the meeting, they reviewed the situation in Lebanon and recent developments. Viewpoints were in agreement regarding aiding the tripartite Arab committee to implement the Casablanca summit resolutions.

Al-Shar' Discusses Lebanon

JN1109142089 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Louis Faris report from Damascus]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] Meanwhile, sources close to Minister Birri said that during the meeting, they [Khaddam, Birri, Junblatt, and Hamadah] addressed the deterioration of the security situation in Lebanon and the outcome of Birri's 10-day visit to southern Lebanon.

In another development, Syria's Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' told the newspaper AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that Syria would help the Arab tripartite committee fulfill its mission based on his country's commitment to the Casablanca summit resolutions. He called for agreement among the Lebanese and the establishment of a national reconciliation government in Lebanon. It does not advance Syria's interests to keep its forces in Lebanon indefinitely, Al-Shar' stressed.

TISHRIN Cited on U.S. Pullout From Beirut

JN0909075489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 9 Sep 89

[From the press review]

[Text] TISHRIN writes about 'Awn's devastating war. The newspaper says: The Westerners have realized that there will be no solution to the Lebanese problem without essential social reforms that eradicate sectarian discrimination and establish equality and justice. The Westerners also have realized that 'Awn's devastating war will achieve nothing except to lead Lebanon to more tragedies and destruction. The Westerners have refused to be dragged into the dispute, supported the Arab tripartite committee, and called for dialogue, understanding, and a political solution. Except for France, which nearly fell into the trap, the Westerners criticized 'Awn and his group. Thus, the al-Yarzah general slipped, attacked America violently, and besieged its embassy. Consequently, the Americans departed from Lebanon.

Concluding, TISHRIN says: The departure of the Americans confirms the need for prominent figures in East Beirut to work earnestly to extract the reins of their future from 'Awn and put an end to his criminal war against the Lebanese people.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Continues SFRY, Romania Visits

Meets SFRY's Drnovsek

LD0909095989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sept. 7, BAKHTAR—President Najibullah, met with Dr. Janez Drnovsek, President of Yogoslavia and current chairman of the Ninth NAM [Non-aligned Movement] summit conferences in Belgrade today, reported a BAKHTAR reporter from Belgrade.

During the meeting, the president of the RA [Republic of Afghanistan] expressed pleasure that Belgrade, the cradle of the NAM, has once again hosted the 9th NAM summit conference and added that the resolution adopted in the conference on Afghanistan gives authority to Yugoslavia to exercise her efforts for the ensurance of peace in Afghanistan. The Afghan leader added that he is fully confident that Yugoslavia has the authority to fulfil this task completely in the sphere, the report added.

Najibullah further added that this factor will assist the strivings of the UN secretary general for the complete observance of the Geneva Accords and Resolution Number 20 of the 43d session of the UN General Assembly.

Reciprocating, the Yugoslav president said that Yugoslavia is aware of her responsibility in the field and will accomplish whatever necessary.

He stressed that Yugoslavia maintains good relations with all-sides, therefore it would be able to carry [out] the task as a mediatory.

The Yugoslav leader added that he is optimistic on the ensurance of peace in Afghanistan in the near future. I seriously follow the sincere attempts of Robert Mugabe, the previous chairman of the NAM for the speedy restoration of peace in the RA.

The sides during the meeting exchanged views on further expansion of friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries.

Also, President Najibullah, met in the Sava Centre, Belgrade today, with Bernardo Vieira, president of the Republic of Guinea-Bissau. During the meeting the Afghan leader thanked B. Vieira from his realistic position adopted in international gatherings in support of righteous and principelled stand of Afghanistan as well his support from peaceful solution of the Afghan issue.

Najibullah informed in detail the Guinea-Bissau leader on the aggressions and interferences of Pakistan in the internal affairs of the RA.

In his turn, the president of Guinea-Bissau once again condemned foreign aggressions in the internal affairs of the RA. He stressed that all-sides concerned should strictly observe the Geneva accords for ensurance peace and ending war in the RA.

He assured President Najibullah on his country support for political solution of the situation around Afghanistan.

Activities in Romania Noted

LD1009102689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep 9, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] after a working visit to Bucharest at the invitation of Nicolae Ceausescu general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania, left Romania at 3 p.m. local time of Bucharest, for home on August 8, 1989.

A seen off [as received] ceremony was held in Presidential Palace. President Najibullah accompanied by Nicolae Ceausescu went to a special place, after playing of national anthems of the two countries, the leaders of the RA-Romania examined special guard. Then a group of children delivered bouquet of flowers to President Najibullah.

At the Bucharest International Airport, President Najibullah and his accompanies were seen off by Manea Manescu, member of the Executive Bureau of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and deputy-chairman of the State Council of that country, Ion Stoian, alternate member of the Executive Bureau and secretary of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and Ioan Totu, alternate member of the Executive Bureau of the Romanian Communist Party Central Committee and foreign affairs minister of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

According to another report, Nicolae Ceausescu general secretary of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania has arranged a banquet on Sept 8 in the honour of Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan in presidential headquarters.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reported that President Najibullah and his accompanies as well as high-ranking party and state authorities of the Socialist Romania took part in the reception.

President Najibullah and Nicolae Ceausescu delivered their speeches in the reception.

Greets Drnovsek, Ceausescu

LD1009100689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0436 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Kabul, Sep 9, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan "RA" while overflying the airspace of the Yugoslav Federative Socialist Republic sent a message to Dr Janez Drnovsk, president of Yugoslavia.

In this moment when our plane is crossing the airspace of your beautiful country, I want to send my best felicitation to you and the people of Yugoslavia and wish the ever further consolidation of friendly relations, solidarity and cooperation existed [as received] between our two countries, says the message.

I once again thank you for your warm hospitality and good will extended to the Afghan delegtion during it's stay in Belgrade.

Also, President Najibullah, while overflying the airspace of the Socialist Republic of Romania has sent a message addressed to Nicolae Ceausescu, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Romanian Communist Party and president of the Socialist Republic of Romania to Bucharest.

Availing this opportunity, I want to express my heartfelt regards to you, for your warm hospitality extended to us in Bucharest, capital of Romania and wish that the existed relations and friendship between the RA and Romania will be further developed in the interest of the two countries people and world peace and security as well, the message stressed.

I wish, good health for you and ever further progress and well-being for the people of Romania. [passage omitted]

Greets Gorbachev En Route Home

LD0909210689 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan sent the following message to Moscow as his plane passed through Soviet airspace addressed to His Excellency Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee:

His Excellency Mikhail Sergeyvich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and president of the USSR Supreme Soviet,

Kremlin, Moscow.

En route to my country from Belgrade, and while passing through Soviet airspace, on behalf of myself and the members of the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan, I express my warm greetings and best wishes to your excellency.

I wish you health, success, and prosperity and welfare for the people of the Soviet Union.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan
8 September 1989

Returns From Romania

LD0909142189 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, and his delegation arrived in Kubul today after taking part in the ninth conference of the heads of state or of government of the nonaligned countries in Belgrade and his official visit to Romania at the invitation of Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania. [passage omitted]

Najibullah Reports to PDPA Politburo

LD1009190889 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] The office of the presidency reported to us that esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, met today with vice presidents 'Abdul Rahim Hatif, Lieutenant General Muhammad Rafi, 'Abdul Hamid Muhtat, and 'Abdul Wahid Sorabi at the presidency's Golkhana Palace, and talked with them about the participation and role of Afghanistan's delegation in the ninth conference of the nonaligned countries' heads of states or heads of governments, and about the working visit of the Republic of Afghanistan delegation to the Socialist Republic of Romania at the invitation of Nicolae Ceausescu, president of the Socialist Republic of Romania.

Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the Belgrade conference and with the approval of the Republic of Afghanistan's stance by more than 100 member countries of the Nonaligned Movement.

According to another report, esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA] Central Committee, took part today in a special meeting of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, and reported to Politburo members on the participation of the Republic of Afghanistan's delegation at the ninth conference of Nonaligned Movement countries' heads of state or government; on the peace proposals of the Republic of Afghanistan at the conference; and on the visit of the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan to the Socialist Republic of Romania. Esteemed Najibullah said that peace proposals of the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan were received by a great majority of member countries of the Nonaligned Movement with understanding, support, agreement, and solidarity, and were approved.

Esteemed Najibullah said: The support of the heads of state or government of the movement for the peace-loving stance of the Republic of Afghanistan is the manifestation of the fact that the people of the world know us better than before and back the stance of the

Republic of Afghanistan's leadership on ensuring peace and the cessation of war. For instance, the approval of our new proposals in the draft of the first resolution, despite the resistance of Pakistan's delegation, is the manifestation of the fact that the Nonaligned Movement has acquired more information on the correctness of the national reconciliation policy in our country. It fully supports the wide efforts made for the cessation of war, for the reconstruction of the country, and for the unity and cooperation with all political forces of the Afghan society.

Therefore, the working visit of the delegation of the Republic of Afghanistan to Romania is a great step in the expansion and consolidation of bilateral relations, which have had a long history of friendship and cooperation. The PDPA Central Committee endorsed the report of esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan and PDPA general secretary.

Najibullah Cables Kim Il-song, Zhivkov

LD1009102289 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0418 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Kabul, Sep 9, BAKHTAR—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] has sent a congratulatory message to Kim Il-song general secretary of the Central Committee of the Worker's Party of Korea and president of the Democratic People's Republic of that country on the occasion of the 41st founding anniversary of that country, to Pyongyang, on Sept 9.

The message expresses the hope that friendly relations, and mutually beneficial fraternal cooperation existed between the two countries will be ever further expanded and consolidated in the interest of the Afghan-Korean people.

Besides, President Najibullah and Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Council of Ministers of the RA have sent congratulatory message addressed to Todor Zhivkov, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Bulgarian Communist Party and chairman of the State Council of the People's Republic of Bulgaria and G. Atarasev chairman of the Council of MInisters of that country on the occasion of the 45th founding anniversary of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, to Sofia, on Sept 8, 1989.

The message says that, under the wise leadership of the Bulgarian Communist Party, the people of that country during the four and a half decades achieved great successes in socioeconomic and political fields.

Bulgaria by pursuance of a peaceful foreign policy enjoys high prestige in international arena, the message added.

The message stresses that the existing friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries will be further developed in the interest of peoples, parties and government of the two countries and peace and security in the world.

Islamabad Reports Mujahidin 'Liberate' Shindand

BK1209023289 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] According to reports from Afghanistan, the mujahidin have liberated Shindand, a strategic subdivision of Farah Province. All government buildings, KHAD [Afghan secret police] headquarters, and telecommunication centers are now under mujahidin control. The mujahidin have also captured an important military base and 14 Kabul regime security posts near Khowst.

The mujahidin fired rockets at Kabul garrison area last night, killing at least six and wounding eight persons.

Kabul Radio Updates Combat Activities

LD1109160189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1430 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] An authoritative source in the armed forces reported to the BIA [BAKHTAR Information Agency] military section that a number of the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Khowst major district who carry out combat in the direction of Tanay District resorted to attacks in order to strengthen a new defense line against the enemy—which includes armed extremists, Saudi Wahhabis, and Pakistani militarists—and have been deployed in a proper line in accordance with the envisaged plan.

As a result of combat operations and artillery, air, and missile strikes by the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in that area, 97 enemies were killed, and 111 were injured. Among those killed and injured are Saudi Wahhabis and Pakistani militarists. An enemy tank, two reactive systems [rocket projectiles], four mortars and a gun were also destroyed.

Two communications systems, an ammunition depot, 17 shells of Askr-20 and various type of infantry weapons were seized by the Armed Forces.

According to another report the enemy is planning to reorganize its grouping in the south of Tanay District. However, as a result of blows on enemy forces, disorder among their forces, and low morale the enemy was unable to seize a proper place for itself after regrouping.

In the course of the combat operations, three members of the Armed Forces were martyred and 19 others were injured.

The source adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Qandahar Province carried out mopping up operations in the areas around Mokawan, as a result of which a number of enemy forces were killed.

In the course of these mopping up operations, 16 shells of 76mm gun, 20 mortar mines, and four cases of shells of infantry weapons were seized.

The source adds that the units and companies of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province are mainly engaged in strengthening defense and Blindazh [as heard] positions. A number of the soldiers have carried out mopping up operations in the direction of Chaperhar, as a result of which 60 enemy mortars, 10 cases of Kalashinkov shells, 25 anti-personnel mines, two cases of explosives, and 15 shells of rocket launchers were seized. As a result of artillery fire 41 enemies were killed and 58 others were injured. Three rocket launcher systems, six mortar and six rocket launchers were destroyed. The report adds that among those killed are a number of armed oppositions, Pakistani militarists and Saudi Wahhabis.

India

Minister Natwar Singh Discusses Belgrade Summit

BK1109031989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] The minister of state for external affairs, Mr Natwar Singh, has said that the just concluded NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit at Belgrade has made the movement more cohesive and united. It has taken a realistic look at the political, economic, and environmental issues facing the world. Mr Natwar Singh was participating in the current affairs program of All India Radio last night. He felt that the timing of the Belgrade summit was very appropriate as it was held before the meeting of the UN General Assembly and the summit of Commonwealth heads of government in Kuala Lumpur next month. He said the Nonaligned Movement can help the government negotiate political and economic issues.

Referring to the prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi's address at the summit, Mr Natwar Singh said the proposal for a planet protection fund gave direction to the summit. His speech also made a deep impact on disarmament and economic and environmental issues.

Commentary Views Belgrade Nonaligned Summit

BK1009120189 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The Nonaligned Movement, for which free India's first prime minister Jawahar Lal Nehru provided the inspiration, has come of age having proved its worth as a force for world peace. The world situation has changed dramatically from the days of an imminent threat of global conflict with two rival blocs confronting each other with nuclear gadgetry. Peace is not firmly established, but there is greater hope of an enduring detente. A hard road lies ahead to achieve complete disarmament, especially the elimination of all nuclear weapons. The Nonaligned Movement, with its membership swelling to over 100 developing nations, has not lost its relevance.

Economic domination of the world itself is a threat to the stability of weaker nations, especially those with low incomes and mass poverty. It is, therefore, appropriate that the Nonaligned summit at Belgrade shifted its focus to the global economic issues for, as it said in its final declaration, a detente devoid of economic content is unlikely to endure.

The world economy is still dominated by a few major industrialized nations and little has been achieved over the last 2 decades in reconstructing a world economic order which is more equitable and supportive of the development of the poorer countries. As Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi of India described aptly: a doctrine of domination holds sway in the economic sphere with a few nations subordinating the interests of the majority of the people of the world to their own short-term advantage. Though the debt crisis erupted in 1988—and since then the developing country debt has grown to over $1,300 billion—the richer nations have underplayed the seriousness of the problem, notwithstanding the negative transfer of resources to developing countries.

As the decade of the nineties opens and the United Nations is busy formulating the international development strategy for the fourth decade, the Belgrade summit has issued a timely call for resumption of North-South dialogue aimed at reduction of global economic disparities. For the first time after the second war, opportunities have opened up for scaling down military expenditures and diverting resources for development and protection of the environment.

The economic side of the declaration issued from Belgrade should provide a major input to the resumption of North-South dialogue and strengthening of economic cooperation among developing countries. Reforms taking place in Eastern Europe and the USSR are also opening up new vistas of cooperation multilaterally. The immediate problems of vital interest to developing countries are in the fields of external indebtedness, financial flows, monetary reforms, and removal of protectionist barriers to trade. It is on these issues that the Belgrade summit has called for a constructive dialogue, endorsing the initiatives taken by Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and three other nonaligned leaders at Paris in July last.

Global interdependence cannot be achieved in conditions of a few nations using their economic weight to determine what other countries ought to do. The declaration has, thus, reaffirmed the inalienable right of all countries to exercise permanent sovereignty over their natural resources and economic activity.

A significant suggestion from the Belgrade summit is the establishment of a debtors' forum to strengthen their negotiating position in the area of external debt. The present piecemeal alleviation of debt difficulties in various ways, which are listed and should be coupled with highly concessional loans to facilitate adjustment and growth by the developing countries. North-South cooperation has become all the more imperative in the

context of the steady degradation of global environment, the primary responsibility for which, as Mr Gandhi said, rested with developed nations. [Sentence as Heard] Mr Gandhi proposed the setting up of an $18 billion planet protection fund with contribution from all countries—developed and developing—linked to a fixed percentage of their national income. Such a fund should help to make available technology to developing countries in the arena of environmental conservation.

The solidarity that over 100 nations demonstrated this week at Belgrade will now have to be carried effectively into the negotiating arena in the quest for a new world economic order.

Police Apprehending Pakistan-Trained Youths

BK0909160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, police have intensified the campaign to apprehend all Pakistani-trained youths involved in subversive activities. In one of their raids last night, police arrested four youths operating in Sopor area and recovered a large quantity of arms and ammunition. Police have also stepped up patrolling in border villages to check infiltration and arms smuggling into the state.

French Radar System Under Production in Gaziabad

BK1009090889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] A highly sophisticated and advanced TH.D radar system is now in the production at the Bharat Electronics Limited in Gaziabad. This French radar system was installed in 1985 at the Air Force station Arjungarh near Delhi.

Disclosing this to a team of newsmen, the station commander, Group Captain N.S. Matru, said the TH.D radar became operational at the air defense direction center, which is the nerve center of the air defense system.

Our correspondent reports that the TH.D radar is very effective against medium- and high-level air threats. The operational staff handling this sophisticated system are highly trained and dedicated, and can carry out their job in less than 2 minutes. The computer-based data handling system helps the operational staff in carrying out their job most effectively and speedily.

Center Uses Thorium To Make Uranium Isotope

BK0809112989 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 89 p 12

[By Rajendra Prabhu]

[Text] New Delhi, Aug. 30—India is one step nearer utilisation of its vast thorium deposits in generating power with the development and testing of uranium-233 fuel plates at the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre [BARC] in Bombay recently.

"In the whole world, it is the first time that thorium enriched fuel is being made," says Dr P.K. Iyengar, director of the BARC. He was speaking to this correspondent in a telephonic review of the event.

Thorium, available in plenty on the beaches of the country, is not itself a nuclear fuel. It has to be irradiated with fast neutrons to convert it into one of the isotopes of uranium, U-233, the most fissile of these isotopes which has a high burn efficiency.

Dr Iyengar said that the metallurgy of this thorium conversion and fuel construction "is well known" but it was only in India that it has been attempted with success. The aluminium cladded fuel plates would be tried in the fast neutron reactor Kamini at the Kalpakkam research centre of the BARC in Tamil Nadu. By the year end this reactor would be critical with the thorium derived fuel.

This would be the final proof that the third generation nuclear reactors proposed to be set up in the early years of the coming century, would be a workable proposition. The thorium would be converted using the fast breeder reactors being set up in the second generation atomic power stations. Also thorium uranium mixtures would be tried in the thermal (first generation) reactors on an experimental basis.

The current experiment is with low level power reactor using thorium derived fuel. But large sized reactors would be later set up to take full advantage of the high efficiency of U-233 fuel.

There are also plans to try thorium conversion in the high energy Pelletron Accelerator built at the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research by the BARC. This will be done through using neutrons from fusion reactions induced in the accelerator. If successful, this experiment would contribute significantly to development of nuclear power in the second decade of the next century.

India would have bypassed one stage in thorium usage and reached a low cost method of generating nuclear power on a massive scale with a fuel cycle that could run for several decades at a stretch. The net meaning of successful thorium use is that India is unlikely to run out of its nuclear fuel for a long time to come.

Iran

Besharati Calls on U.S. To Unfreeze Assets

NC1109105589 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 4 Sep 89 pp 1, 4

[M. Firuzi report]

[Text] Tehran—A senior offical at the Iranian Foreign Ministry yesterday asked the U.S. to release the Iranian assets immediately without any terms or conditions.

First Deputy Foreign Miniter 'Ali Mohammad Besharati said, "Washington confiscated Iranian assets in violation of international law and recognized international diplomatic norms."

Besharati in an exclusive interview with the TEHRAN TIMES said that President George Bush's administration should pay due attention towards this issue and there is no need for Iran to talk with the U.S. on this subject." [no opening quotation marks as published]

He was referring to the Iranian assets worth billions of dollars which were confiscated by the U.S. in 1979 after the culmination of the Islamic Revolution.

The Iranian assets included cash, spare parts, and certain machinery for which the payment has already been made.

Besharati said that "right now no mediatory move between Iran and the U.S. is under way" for the normalization of Tehran-Washington relations which were severed in 1980.

In a recent media report it was mentioned that certain countries are playing a mediatory role for the restoration of U.S.-Iran relations.

Besharati, however, acknowledged that the Bush administrtion has sent several letters to Iran addressing "the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

He said that these letters were received through the Swiss Embassy here in Tehran which is also responsible for the U.S. interest in Iran. The U.S. letters were also received through other countries such as Japan.

"The last letter sent by the U.S. to Iran was received just 20 days ago," he said without going into details.

"In these letters the U.S. mentioned the issues including the Iran-U.S. relations and the Lebanese situation," Besharati said.

"No, Iran never replied to the U.S. in writing," he said, adding that oral response was definitely given through messengers. He did not elaborate.

Besharati maintained that the Bush administration has realized the mistakes committed by (former President Ronald) Reagan. He said, "The Bush administration has inherited the consequences of the wrong policy of the previous administration and he (President Bush) is facing a number of difficulties.

"For example," he said, "(President Jimmy) Carter and Reagan maintained their country's interest in the region and ignored Iran and its strategic importance which has created a number of problems being faced today by the Bush administration."

"But," he said, "We see the Bush administration has tried to undo many things of the past."

Going into details Besharati referred to $100 million aid to contras, rebels of Nicaragua and said this aid was blocked by the Bush administration. "The Bush administration favored disruption in the contra activities," he said and emphasized that similar moves are needed for Iran.

As a goodwill step the U.S. should denounce the interference in Iranian affairs by the previous administrations and release the Iranian assets immediately with no terms or conditions.

"Here," he said, I want to make it clear that contrary to the Western media propaganda the Iranian demand is based on principle and not that we badly need money, or spare parts, for our reconstruction plan."

"We have unprecedented construction plans for our country and the money confiscated by the U.S. is nothing compared to the amount we are going to spend for our development projects."

Answering a question Besharati said, "Look, if the U.S. stops hostility against Iran it will have its impact on the entire Moslem world."

"Yes, I believe, that the hostage issue will also be solved and all the hostages may be released," Besharati assured.

Majlis Response to U.S. Congressmen Proposal

LD1009171789 Tehran IRNA in English 1708 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept 10, IRNA—The Majlis Sunday strongly condemend a desperate attempt by the U.S. Congress to convince the Bush administration to take steps for toppling the Islamic state in Iran.

In a letter to the US Secretary of State, some 186 members of the US Congress urged James Baker to support the opposition Mujahidin Khalq Organisation (MKO) in its attempts to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

In response a large number of Iranian Majlis deputies in a statement described the attempt on behalf of the US Congress as "open interference in the internal affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The statement, while renumerating Washington's hostile foreign policy towards Islamic Iran, warned that those behind "this indecent move were responsible for its reactions."

"This demand by the US statesmen and officials is not new as they have always longed for it. But there is a long way between an ambition and its accomplishment," the statement further added.

"The US congressmen must be asked why you support a hated and degraded grouplet whose hands are stained with the pure blood of thousands of the dearest and most revolutionary people of Iran, while you are believed to be against kidnapping and human rights violations?"

"Whether you want it or not we are here to stay and as our late and combatant imam said you cannot do a damn thing..."

"On the one hand you beg for establishing ties and on the other, you resort to bullying. You must know this and you certainly do, that our people will never forget your crimes and remember our dear imam's remark (that relations between you and us is that) of "a wolf and a lamb."

Daily Condemns 'Exhortation'

LD1109110589 Tehran IRNA in English 1043 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran Sep 11, IRNA—The English daily TEHRAN TIMES said in its editorial Monday that Iran was quite right in suspecting the U.S. gestures for expansion of ties with Iran and ending hostilities.

Describing the signals received from Washington so far as "nothing but so much eyewash," the editorial said that there is the "possibility they have been done with motives more sinister than should be taken for granted."

The editorial was referring to Sunday condemnation by a large number of Majlis deputies and speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi deploring the exhortation by 186 U.S. congressmen asking the American President to overthrow the Islamic Republic by extending assistance to the outlawed Mujahideen Khalq Organization (MKO).

Majlis speaker Karrubi should take the wish of overthrowing the Islamic Republic to the graves.

"The U.S. move verified Iran's claim that the U.S. was not sincere in its overtures to stamp out existing bottlenecks in ties between the two countries", the English daily stressed.

"It reflected a blatant interference in the internal affairs of another country for which the United States has acquired notoriety over the years and has not learned its lessons yet."

The daily suggested that the "in-depth differences of view among U.S. strategists in the political setup is truly glaring," because apparently the U.S. congressmen had compiled the letter without the knowledge of the U.S. Administration.

The daily stressed that the strong backing of the American congressmen for the terrorist MKO group revealed the emptiness of anti-terroristic slogans "the U.S. chants with such demagogic insistence."

It added that Iran had the necessary evidences to prove that the U.S. was providing MKO with "whatever they needed" to continue their terrorist activities against the Islamic Republic system.

The daily warned that the evidences would be made public "when the time is ripe for such revelations."

Commentary Criticizes 'Interference'

LD1109131689 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1101 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] Greetings dear listeners. The U.S. overt interference in Iran's internal affairs is the title of our first political commentary of the day.

A total of 186 U.S. congressmen signed a letter calling on the U.S. President to pursue the goal of overthrowing the Islamic Republic regime by supporting Iranian counter-revolutionary groups and adopting a firm stand toward Iran. They stated in their letter that Imam Khomeyni's policies are still being pursued in Iran and that, with the developments in Iran after the passing away of the founder of the Islamic Republic, no change has taken place in the policies of high-ranking officials of the Islamic Republic regime. Therefore they have asked the U.S. Government to confront Iran more decisively.

Following the publication of this report, Majlis deputies yesterday issued a statement condemning the action of the U.S. congressmen in calling on that country's president to adopt policies to overthrow the Islamic Republic. The statement by the Majlis deputies, entitled "A Reply to the Standard-Bearers of State Terrorism," calls this action by the U.S. congressmen overt interference in Iran's internal affairs. Referring to the various plots hatched by the great satan against the Islamic Revolution they described this request by the U.S. congressmen as a sign of the U.S. defeat at the hands of the Islamic Republic.

By this action, the U.S. Congress has demonstrated an open disregard of international standards. By interfering in Iran's internal affairs, it has called on the U.S. leaders to embark on active confrontation against the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Despite the fact that this action is considered to be a violation of international norms, it clearly contravenes the Algerian Declaration, according to which the Governments of Iran and the United States undertook not to interfere in each other's internal affairs.

Of course this is not the first time that the United States has disregarded bilateral agreements and international standards. Considering the aggressive nature of the U.S. Government one could say that it will not be the last time. The revelation of the U.S. espionage network in Iran and comments made by the spies exposed the widespread interference in Iran's affairs by the U.S. Government.

The recent action by the U.S. congressmen demonstrates, on the one hand, the hatred and enmity of the U.S. Government toward the Islamic Revolution, and on the other hand the steadfastness of the Iranian authorities in pursuit of Imam Khomeyni's path. It also reveals the fear of the enemies of the Islamic Revolution, the Americans in particular, of the continuation of that path.

Considering the U.S. long-standing enmity and the repeated conspiracies hatched by the U.S. Government to defeat the Islamic Revolution, the recent action by the U.S. authorities is a continuation of the previous plots. It could then be concluded that, despite the fact that the United States occasionally expresses a wish for friendly ties with Iran, it has never been sincere; its aim in establishing ties with Iran is merely to defeat the Islamic Revolution. That is why, by follwing their late leader and acting in accordance with the policies set out by the founder of the Islamic Republic, the Iranian authorities have begun a fight the enemies of the Islamic Revolution and have made them desperate and despondent.

More on Majlis Criticism

LD1109153189 Tehran IRNA in English 1504 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep 11, IRNA—A senior member of the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Majlis) has called on parliaments in the world to seriously deal with the hostile stance adopted by the U.S. Congress against the Islamic Republic of Iran. Terming the U.S. stand as being "against parliamentary norms and a struggle against democracy", Hojjat ol-Eslam Asadollah Bayat, the Majlis vice-speaker said that parliaments in the world should not allow their prestige to be brought under question by the U.S. Congress.

Bayat was talking to the head of a Bangladeshi Party Nourollah [name as received] here Sunday.

Some 186 U.S. congressmen have recently cabled a letter to Secretary of State James Baker, calling for tougher measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran including plans to topple the regime.

Nourollah called for expansion of parliamentary ties between the two countries and participation of Bangladeshi experts in Iran's reconstruction projects.

Policy Called 'Domination-Seeking'

LD1109152589 Tehran IRNA in English 1510 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep 11, IRNA—The U.S. Congress call on the Bush administration to overthrow the Islamic Republic has been described by an Iranian daily as "an open interference in internal affairs of a country and in violation of all existing international norms."

"This, however, is another experience for Iran to remain firm in its belief that the U.S. will never abandon its domination-seeking policy," ABRAR's editorial said Monday.

186 U.S. congressmen, in a letter to the Secretary of State James Baker, urged him to support the opposition Mujahideen Khalq Organisation (MKO) in its attempts to overthrow the Islamic Republic.

Describing the highly influential role of propaganda in the American society, the morning daily said "The main purpose of the letter is to cover the gross failure of the U.S. diplomacy vis-a-vis the Islamic Republic."

"The letter is in fact a reaction towards (Iran's) refusal to accept Washington's repeated offers of renewed diplomatic ties with Tehran," it added.

It believed "the American leaders, by preparing such a note, can feel less humiliation and (think) they can show to their people that the American Government can threaten governments which refuse to compromise with Washington's hegemonistic spirit."

It said the ten year history of the Islamic Revolution was full of unsuccessful attempts by the U.S. to topple the Islamic system of Iran.

"Coup attempts, economic sanctions, extension of support to groups hostile to the revolution, imposition of the war and finally direct military attacks have all been tried by the U.S."

Tehran Questions U.S. Embassy Closure in Beirut

LD0809205489 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Excerpts] At seven o'clock on Wednesday, September 6th, four helicopters emerged on top of the U.S. Embassy in the eastern sector of Beirut, and minutes later evacuated the U.S. ambassador along with 30 other diplomats and personnel of the embassy from Lebanon. In this way, the U.S. Embassy which has played an active role in plotting against the Lebanese people, in most critical moments throughout the past 10 years, was eventually closed. [passage omitted]

The basic question here is why America had not embarked so hurriedly on evacuation in 1983 when it had once lost 60, and on another occasion 242, of its people in Beirut, contrary to what it did last Wednesday? Of course, various observers are presenting various analyses on these issues, including the one that Washington has come to side with Syria and given green light to Damascus to open its final assault against Michel 'Awn. But the meetings of Hafiz al-Asad with Mr Chadli Bendjadid, which took place in Belgrade on Wednesday, and the indications which came from Syria's flexible stance, proved contrary to the foregoing opinion. Another group of observers believe that America tried in critical moments to [word indistinct] to the French, but that too, is unacceptable from the viewpoint of big power rivalry, where a superpower may give its place to a third grade power. However, perhaps, from among all these analyses, the interview of the spokesman of the U.S. State Department, where he noted that America had not abandoned Lebanon and it will bring back its ambassador to Beirut as and when the circumstances permit, may speak of another point.

Our guess from the unanticipated U.S. decision to evacuate its embassy staff from Beirut is that the discord-creating, expansionist, and [word indistinct] visage of

Michele 'Awn has been exposed to the Americans, and Washington—which is well aware of the whole background behind the several-years-old crisis in Lebanon—has discerned that not only the problem of Lebanon cannot be settled by the policies being pursued by Michele 'Awn, but also the lives of the American diplomats will certainly be endangered by his agents. Undoubtedly, the American measures can neither be construed as humanistic nor as a move taken for the sake of Lebanon. Rather this initiative on the part of Washington can be considered as a revision of the U.S. policy in Lebanon aimed at preserving the long-term interests of the United States.

If one can be optimistic about future events, it can be concluded that since the Iraqi regime is the main supporter of Michele 'Awn, the pro-Iraqi policy of Washington, too, may undergo a change. The reason is that in the same manner that Michele 'Awn has drawn Lebanon into a devastating war, the Baghdad regime has no desire for peace and amity in the region, and America knows it well, but in every new crisis Washington will come across a fresh problem in the Middle East, thus creating still more headaches for itself.

If America really holds the belief that Michele 'Awn is a terrorist, then it is the right moment for Washington to also bring pressure on Paris and Baghdad to stop intervening in Lebanon and supporting Michele 'Awn.

Reportage on Nonaligned Summit in Belgrade

Daily Criticizes NAM

LD0709213289 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 7 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep 7, IRNA—An Iranian Daily Thursday [7 September] criticized the Nonaligned Movement (NAM) for trying to divert from its aspirations rather than reviewing its structure.

JOMHURI ISLAMI called the Ninth NAM Summit held in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, this week as an "unprecedented gathering" in the international arena in which leaders and representatives of more than 102 countries took part.

"The movement needs to carefully reassess its attitude toward world developments and crisis" it said adding "due to organizational problems it has not yet been successful in meeting a single of its international obligations."

"NAM is now faced with a risky and serious test as it has never before been urged to uphold its principal ideals and goals during its 28-year old life".

"The movement, established on the basis of negating dependence on superpowers, has now many members some of which act either overtly or covertly as satellites of superpowers in political scenes."

The paper believed that multitudeness of its members as well as easy conditions for membership are the main reasons behind the movement's inefficiency.

The movement, due to the deep-rooted alignment of certain members to the power blocs, has not been able to introduce any logical and practical solution to settle disputes in Palestine, South Africa, Lebanon and Latin America, the paper noted.

It added that under the pretext of modernization and structural reform and keeping up with present world situation, the movement has now abandoned its fundamental ideals in a bid to find answers to the current developments in the world.

By doing so, NAM is inclining towards opening negotiations with the superpowers, something which the superpowers have long been waiting for.

Under the present circumstances, the true and progressive members of the Non-aligned Movement should not hesitate in upholding the aspirations of the movement since a real movement is detrimental to the expansionist and domination-seeking policies of the arrogant powers.

These powers try, with the adjustment or modification of the movement's fundamental principles, to compel it to sit at a negotiation table.

It referred to the summit's draft declaration in which it said great efforts have been made to transform the movement's stands from an intransigent nature into a negotiating and compromising one with the world powers.

Advocates of such a transformation describe themselves as pragmatist claiming that NAM's basic principles should be changed in order to keep up with detente.

Describing pragmatism as being over-optimistic, the paper said that passing of time will not diminish colonialistic nature of the superpowers and that the oppressed countries have no hope of regaining their rights.

The paper concluded by saying that existence of such tendencies in the movement has made it inactive in regional and world crises and unable to present solutions.

Referring to the independent nature of the NAM as a whole, the paper believed that it can operate far from any pressure and make decisions to solve regional and international disputes.

It is only in this case that reconstruction of the movement would be acceptable by the Islamic Republic, it concluded.

Commentary on NAM Summit

NC1009210489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1615 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Unattributed commentary from the "Weekly Report" program on the Nonaligned Movement]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] As expected, the final communique of the Nonaligned Summit contained generalities in some cases, and optimism on international problems in other cases.

The reason for this optimism is very clear. The current situation of the international system and the consolidation of the theory of peaceful coexistence in the world have given a new look to the contemporary era, resembling what the founders of the Nonaligned Movement had in mind. [passage omitted]

As the current leader of the Nonaligned Movement [NAM], Yugoslavia's opinion about the need for the NAM's to adopt a new strategy is based on international realities, but it is also very optimistic. Undoubtedly, the outlook of the ninth nonaligned summit in Belgrade on the NAM's new role in view of a new international system cannot grant this Movement its true position. Do all the current developments fully reflect all the realities of the contemporary world and move toward the primary objectives of the Nonaligned Movement? And in view of the final communique of the ninth nonaligned summit, should this movement display coordination with the current trend in the international system?

Apparent in the final communique is the acceptance of solutions to many international problems, namely the Palestinian problem, within the framework of new international agreements. This shows that the Nonaligned Movement has not yet been able to assess the situation correctly. Instead of painting a new picture of the international system by a power bloc—the Nonaligned Movement—as a third power which includes two-thirds of the world's nations, this movement should have an accurate vision of the contemporary world and not be hasty in adopting the idea of a new international system. While having made one of its principled objectives the consolidation of peaceful international cooperation, the Nonaligned Movement also considers respect of justice and the implementation of international commitments to be part of its charter. Thus, a correct assessment of the new international system by the ninth nonaligned summit should have been based on an understanding of the position of justice and the implementation of international commitments in this new system. Achieving such an understanding calls for a good understanding of peripheral developments and of the internal problems of the NAM.

Thus, the Belgrade conference should have dealt with the new international system as separate from issues such as the problems of occupied Palestine, Lebanon, Kampuchea, the impasse in the implementation of Resolution 598, and the relationship between general disarmament and peace and security.

Velayati Reports on Conference

LD0909170589 Tehran IRNA in English 1647 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep 9, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati presented a comprehensive report to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani on the ninth Nonaligned Movement [NAM] summit held in Belgrade early this week. President Hashemi-Rafsanjani was also briefed on the issues discussed and decisions made in the summit, meetings of the Iranian delegation with officials of other countries, and the report of NAM's general sessions and eco-political committees.

Velayati on Outcome of Summit

LD0909122189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The remarks of Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs of our country, about the issues raised and the decisions reached at the Ninth Nonaligned Summit Conference is the topic of our first news report, to which we draw your attention.

[Begin Velayati recording] In connection with the Iran-Iraq peace talks, what was approved was much closer to a balanced statement than what was included in the draft copy of the final resolution.

In regard to Lebanon, with the assistance of Syria and Iran and some other friendly countries, we prevented the inclusion of an article by the supporters of the Phalangists according to which pressure could be exerted on the Islamic and nationalist forces.

In connection with the issue of Afghanistan, as a result of the efforts of the Islamic Republic, what was approved was that the conference foresees a nonaligned and Islamic future for Afghanistan. The emphasis on the Islamic nature of Afghanistan was especially something which was only stressed by the Islamic Republic which was later approved as the result of great effort. This was a major turning point in the history of international resolutions regarding Afghanistan. Earlier, such a point and such an article was included in the joint Iran-USSR statement, and now it has been included in the resolutions of the nonaligned, which is of great importance.

In connection with Palestine, part of what was approved was not acceptable to the Islamic Republic. Therefore, Iran, Syria, and Libya submitted a strong protest in this connection, which was finally part of the major documents. This means that what has been approved has, at least, not met with the satisfaction of these three Islamic countries.

On the fringes of the sessions, we had many good meetings with the heads, foreign ministers, and the directors of some international organizations. Altogether we had some 40 meetings. These meetings are very effective for the expansion of bilateral relations between Iran and other countries. They provided a good opportunity for discussion and talks about bilateral relations and bilateral cooperation in international organizations.

No doubt, you are familiar with the contents of my speech at the conference. One of the things that I should also refer to is the issue of the choice of a place for the next session, the 10th conference. For many months, a number of countries have been noisily volunteering themselves; we were seriously opposed to some of them, including Iraq. As a result of our efforts, we prevented the possibility that countries such as Iraq hosting the conference.

Finally, it was decided that the final decision will be made 2 years from now at the ministers' meeting. A number of countries were discussed for the ministers' meeting—Venezuela, Tunisia, and Ghana. Finally, Ghana was chosen as the host for the conference of the nonaligned foreign ministers in 2 years. [end recording]

Velayati Departs for Malaysia, Bangladesh

LD1209055389 Tehran IRNA in English 0545 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sept 12 IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati heading a high-ranking delegation left Tehran for the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur Monday night at the first leg of his two-nation tour.

Velayati during his two-day official visit will hold talks with senior Malaysian officials on expansion of bilateral political, economic, and trade relations.

In a brief interview before departure he said that the trip to Malaysia and later to Bangladesh is in line with the policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizing expansion of ties with Islamic countries.

After a two-day stay in Malaysia, Velayati and the accompanying delegation will leave for Bangladesh.

TEHRAN TIMES Notes Progress on Iraq

LD0909101289 Tehran IRNA in English 0807 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] Tehran, Sep 9, IRNA—Some progress has been made in Iran-Iraq issue during the Ninth Non-Aligned (NAM) Summit which ended its work in Belgrade Friday, the TEHRAN TIMES' editorial said Saturday.

"Some progress appears to have been made...in the Iran-Iraq conflict, which has now come to be viewed in a more realistic way," said the English daily. It pointed out "although Iran expected a more explicit statement by NAM on the issue, it has endeavored in every way possible to support all moves of the U.N. Security Council." "We believe Non-Aligned Movement has now given the U.N. chief some extra ballast in trying to wind up these negotiations in a manner that will give satisfaction to both parties in the conflict," it added.

TEHRAN TIMES also pointed out that in Belgrade meeting, founding members of NAM: India, Yugoslavia and Egypt, persuaded their colleagues to adopt a document which declared the "world was now becoming a safer place." The editorial wondered whether "this really goes far enough as a fulfillment of NAM ideals in all these years."

Opposition Figure on Iran-Israel Arms Talks

JN1209094089 Jeddah AL-MADINAH in Arabic 10 Sep 89 p 1

[By Khalid al-Matrafi]

[Text] A high-level Iranian opposition official has affirmed to AL-MADINAH that negotiations are currently under way between an Iranian delegation and an Israeli delegation in Switzerland to conclude several new arms deals worth $100 million.

The source revealed that Bahramani Rafsanjani [name as published], cousin of President Hashemi-Rafsanjani, is heading the Iranian delegation.

The source added that a high-ranking Iranian figure joined the Iranian delegation a few days ago to take part in the negotiations. He disclosed that this figure is Musavi-Ardabili. Agreement on this deal [as published] is expected to be reached this week.

In a related development, 186 U.S. Congressmen sent a letter to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker calling for the adoption of a decisive official stance vis-a-vis Iran and also for supporting the Iranian popular movement and the resistance movement instead of continuing to harbor delusions on the existence of moderates in Tehran.

Democratic Representative Mervyn Dymally said that those known as moderates in the higher [Iranian] echelons of power have continued to pursue their old repressive policies.

Editorial Says Michel 'Awn 'Buying Time'

NC0909150289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Michel 'Awn Only Buying Time"]

[Text] As the fighting continues in Beirut between belligerent factions within, France and the Soviet Union among other countries have taken on themselves the responsibility of trying to stamp out the senseless fighting and assumed mediatory roles of one sort or another.

It has been reported that French special envoy to Lebanon Francois Scheer, the secretary general of the French Foreign Ministry, is to make a round of various countries in the region to invite endorsement and implementation of three-step French plan to end the Beirut fighting, and bring peace. Along with French efforts, the Soviets have also sent their man to Baghdad with a message from President Mikhail Gorbachev to convince the Iraqis to stop supplying arms to the Lebanese Christian faction led by Michel 'Awn, the villain of the piece in the present mayhem.

Baghdad, which has for the past six months been feeding the 'Awn faction with a free gift of arms, is now apparently under pressure to stop its adventurism. In fact the Soviet Foreign Minister Edward Shevardnadze during his visit last month to Tehran condemned outright the massive deliveries of the Soviet weapons to the Phalangists. Well to halt the deliveries of arms by Iraq.

Everything in the current phase of the fighting indicates that it has been no easy business for 'Awn to get his arms in and he no doubt has faced some serious setbacks from which he will find it hard to recover, if ever he is able to or does. Hence 'Awn has changed his footing from a full-fledged enemy of the Syrian forces, thanks to his help from Israel and Iraq, to a man bidding peace.

'Awn's ploy now is to use the alibi that he is fighting a big enemy—namely Syria—to hide his real intent, which is to get the better of national and Islamic groups and parties. Nevertheless his bid for peace now using France is an extension of the ruse to use the French military presence to get himself out of the present deadlock he finds himself in.

The proposed three-step plan has nothing new to it. In its second article, the plan calls for direct talks between the belligerents but fails to provide any mechanism by which the negotiations can start. What the French Government should do first and foremost is to state whether they accept the principle of democracy to determine the future of Lebanon, or not. France we are sure will not agree or frankly confess to disagreement on this issue. Therefore, we cannot help but conclude that the French have only come to buy time for the Phalangists and to give them a new opportuinity to reorganize themselves. All those concerned for the welfare of the Lebanese people had better look sharp.

Commentary on France's 'Objectives' in Lebanon

NC0909084089 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 24 Aug 89 p 12

[Commentary prepared by the foreign political group and entitled "France's Objectives in Dispatching Warships to Lebanon"]

[Text] The French president has announced that French naval forces have been sent to the Lebanese coast only to protect French citizens. He also said that no country or group has the right to give orders to France on what policy it should pursue on Lebanon. Previously, the French also announced that they had dispatched their fleet to the Lebanese coast because of humanitarian objectives and to help the Lebanese people.

France's vague stand following the dispatch of eight warships—including ultramodern aircraft carriers and anti-aircraft guns—to the Lebanese coast has further exacerbated tension there.

Which political or military logic accepts the fact that dispatching a fleet is done with humanitarian motives in mind? What would happen if every country resorted to military action in order to safeguard its citizens in another country?

France's objectives can be studied within the following context:

1. In view of the strong pressures inflicted on Michel 'Awn's forces and the problems in dispatching military materiel to him, the French fleet was sent there in order to escort the ships carrying arms for the Lebanese Maronites, and the idea of politically and militarily strengthening 'Awn has gained strength in France's strategy.

2. The policy of ground attacks against the Maronite forces, which was implemented for the first time, was a turning point in the useless war in Lebanon.

The breaching of the "red line" in Beirut met strong opposition from the United States and France, and the dispatch of the French fleet was to clarify the point that the artillery war should not be gradually turned into a full-scale and destiny-making war! The mission of the French fleet is to defend the Maronites and to prevent their downfall. Naturally, no country will come out and state its military objectives and its intentions in resorting to military means.

3. France's other objective can be "resorting to force" in order to inflict political pressures on Syria and on the national and Islamic forces which have only recently united. France does not want to forget its colonialist record in Lebanon easily, and it very easily considers itself to have the right to carry out a military expedition to Lebanon! Political pressures to prevent legal and popular rule in Lebanon are being inflicted; this is one place in the world where the supporters of democracy (!) will not allow a "rule of the people" to be established.

French democracy in Lebanon means the creation of a government for the Maronite minority only!

Apparently the French also resorted to a terrorist act in order to overshadow their military expedition to a foreign country. During a hijacking of a suspicious nature, an Algerian hijacker used soap and a can of spray to carry out an unspecified hijacking and to demand that an international conference on Lebanon be held in Paris! He also demanded the release of all the hostages and talks between Israel and the PLO.

Aqazadeh Comments on Plans for OPEC Session

LD0809202489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Iranian Oil Minister Mr Aqazadeh, remarked during an interview on the outcome of his negotiations with the Indonesian mining and energy minister.

[Begin Aqazadeh recording] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. A number of OPEC and Nonaligned Movement member countries shared common views on OPEC issues and within this framework they felt that these views should be shared with Iran immediately. Consequently, the Indonesian energy minister visited Iran so as to conduct negotiations on this matter. The most important issue which was proposed to his excellency was that of convening the OPEC summit in September 1990 and the issues which should be discussed in that session.

We have agreed to a summit session, announcing our agreement to participate in that session.

Regarding the issues on that session's agenda, the most significant is probably the adoption of a long-term strategy for OPEC which is of much importance, from the viewpoint of the countries' planning and as a means of putting their policy making into perspective, for both the world and the OPEC member countries. The reason is that if we manage to promulgate our policies to the world in respect of pricing, production, and our movements—if sanctioned and supported by the heads of these countries—they will have very positive results on the oil market.

It was decided that in the time left before convening the session, much effort should be made by the OPEC countries' ministers, and that both oil and foreign ministers should get together in a session before the convening of the summit session in order to coordinate on the issues and prepare them for deliberation at the summit. We predict that results will be achieved in connection to the significant OPEC issues at such a session. [end recording]

Offer From Across Persian Gulf 'Welcomed'

NC0909151689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 31 Aug 89 pp 1, 15

[D. Montazeri report]

[Text] Tehran—Responding to the call by Persian Gulf Arab states a source close to President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani welcomed the offer which arrived here from the other side of the Persian Gulf.

The source, who asked not to be identified by name said, "Well it's one of the basic principles of the Islamic Republic of Iran to have friendly relations with neighbors, so we welcome the Persian Gulf Arab states' offer."

Six Persian Gulf Arab state foreign ministers meeting in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia discussed ties with Iran and issued a statement on Tuesday.

The Arab states joint (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council said the group wanted good ties with its neighbor, Iran. But the group said that the Iranian campaign against one of its members, Saudi Arabia, is the main hurdle.

The source told the TEHRAN TIMES that Iran gives priority to its relations with its neighbors and specially to Muslim countries. "When we can make up our ties with the Soviet Union then why not with the countries on the southern side of the Persian Gulf who are Muslims", he asked.

"But," he said, "one should note that the Iranian leadership in no way is ready to compromise with the principles of the Islamic Revolution whether that country is Britain or Saudi Arabia."

"We have certain major unresolved issues with the Riyadh regime which must be thrashed out before any move in the direction of a smooth flow of bilateral relations," he said.

"You know Islam is the basis of our entire system and if any country tries to trample on these principles one should not expect that we may have friendly relations with that country whether it's our neighbor or far from us on other side of the globe," he said.

Referring to Britain he said the British Government on 'The Satanic Verses' by Salman Rushdie acted against Islam and supported a person who committed blasphemy and hurt over one billion world Muslims.

"It all resulted in the break up of relations between Tehran and London," he said.

"The moment we realize that the Saudi regime is on the line of true Islam then the very next moment the Saudi flag can be seen flapping over the horizon of Iran," he remarked.

Khamene'i Receives Yazdi, Judiciary Officials

LD1209022489 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] Ayatollah Yazdi, head of the Judicial Branch, accompanied by officials of that branch, today met with His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution. In this meeting, Ayatollah Yazdi first presented a report on the state of the Judicial Branch, pointing out the future plans and projects of this branch in line with the new changes and developments in the judicial management forecast in the Constitution.

Then His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic Revolution, emphasized: For me, the present management of the Judicial Branch, composed of ulema and pious, competent individuals, with His Excellency

Mr Yazdi at their head, is cause for being thankful to God the Almighty. His Eminence stated: The merits of Mr Yazdi have been very clear to me for a long time, and God be thanked, from the point of knowledge and action, his excellency is worthy and qualified for the important task of the head of the Judicial Branch. God also has granted him the favor of benefitting from these committed, faithful elements who are conscientious about their responsibilities and well-informed about their tasks, for his task of heading the Judicial Branch. I ask God the Almighty to grant you assistance in this important task.

The vice regent [vali-e amr] of the Muslims continued his remarks, thanking and praising the officials of the Judicial Branch who, in the past 10 years, in spite of existing difficulties in the consultative nature of the management of the Judicial Branch, worked hard and went through a lot of trouble. Then the leader of the Islamic Revolution considered that one of the most important duties of the judicial machinery of the country was to administer Islamic justice. He stated: In the movement of the prophets, one of their fundamental missions was the administration of justice in the life of people. Among all the things related to the administration of people's lives, nothing has received more attention from the prophets than the issue of justice. The observation of justice is not solely the duty of the Judicial Branch, rather all the institutions and officials of the country should make efforts in this matter. However, it is the Judicial Branch that can secure it. From this standpoint, the well-being of all the organs is tied to the well-being of the Judicial Branch, and this machinery is the guarantor of the full administration of justice.

The vice regent of the Muslims referred to the point that the best of laws, if placed in the hands of persons who are not healthy in their thoughts or actions when it comes to their implementation, will turn into useless laws. He stressed the need for care in the selection of individuals and persons in all relevant organs of the Judicial Branch. He graciously stated: Individuals and persons who do not stand up to the qualities and accepted criteria of a competent individual should, with respect, not remain in the judicial machinery of the country because if this is not done, they would be harming the right of the Islamic ummah.

His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i stressed that the Judicial Branch must be independent in the true sense of the word. He graciously said: Independence means that the judge, in carrying out the divine law, should not be waiting for anyone to tell him what to do, and should practice his judgment without being influenced or prejudiced by persons or groups. You should make the machinery of justice of the country such that it would become truly the source of reference, the authority [marja'] and refuge for all the people.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution stressed that following and observing the law stands at the head of all other things in the Judicial Branch, since the criteria for the administration of justice is the law. He stated: If a matter is carried out in accordance with the law, then justice has been fulfilled; oppression is when action is taken contrary to the law. When it is said that justice has to govern the Islamic society or the Judicial Branch, this means that everything should be in accordance with laws that are valid in Islam. The vice regent of the Muslims stressed that it is only through continuous consultation and cooperation of all relevant organs in the Judicial Branch that this body can function even better. He referred to the importance of attracting the personnel to this branch and graciously stated: The Judicial Branch should be so attractive as to draw to itself all ulema, scholars, and persons qualified in law who would be ready to cooperate with this body without any hesitation. However, in order to attract people to cooperate with the Judicial Branch, precise planning is needed.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution, at the close of his remarks, referred to the point that the Judicial Branch should be the guarantor of people's security in our Islamic society and emphasized that the approach to offenders and those who threaten the security of the people should be decisive and extreme. He graciously stated: The judicial machinery of the country should be more in touch with the people and should discuss its actions and working programs and should present to the people the notion of seeking and accepting justice, by teaching people about law in general.

Paper Views Approval of New Cabinet Candidates

NC1109181189 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 30 Aug 89 p 2

[Editorial: "President Gets Full Approval for Cabinet"]

[Text] Once again President Hashemi-Rafsanjani demonstrated his extraordinary skills as a great politician and communicator when he rescued all the ministerial candidates in danger of being rejected by Majlis after delivering a masterly speech in their defense.

About 90 Majlis deputies who appeared to oppose the selection of Dr Najafi, Dr Fazel and Mr Kazeruni to the new cabinet tried hard to convince the rest of deputies to join them. They criticized these candidates for not having a good enough revolutionary record prior to the Islamic Revolution.

Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani replied that being revolutionary and being in jail for political activities are not the only criteria needed for a cabinet minister. He urged the Majlis to have God in their minds when voting on the fate of each minister. He went on to say that if any of the candidates failed to get the required number of votes then the country could face a serious problem.

Of the other important events of the day was the case of Mr Fallahian, candidate for the Information Ministry. Contrary to what was expected he received only 158 positive votes. He was accused by one of the deputies,

Mr Asgharzadeh from Tehran, of lacking enough experience for directing the ministry. However, Mr Fallahian has a record of having gained about 90 percent of his experience after the Islamic Revolution in the area of intelligence in the Information Ministry. He has already outlined his future plans for the ministry on the cultural aspects as well as the intelligence side, which is certainly a very positive note in his plan.

Altogether the president was successful in replacing old faces in the cabinet, who had strong ties with various political factions, with 22 ministers who are known for their executive capabilities without partisan political allegiances. The other important success for the president was his arrangement of the economic, industry, and commerce team. The new team may be regarded as the strongest one since the Islamic Revolution.

The other issue which gives us cause for optimism is the superb character of the president himself which along with his cabinet will form the strongest executive arm in the country thus far. They enjoy the support of the leader of Islamic Republic and the people as well.

We congratulate the new ministers on their selection and wish success to all of them in their future jobs.

Nepal

1,400 Arrested Following 'Crackdown' 10 Sep

BK1009160489 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] In Nepal, over 1,400 persons were arrested today following a crackdown by the administration throughout the country. The Nepali Congress sources said in Kathmandu that the crackdown was initiated to prevent the party workers from attending the week-long program of the party against the failure of the government.

The Nepalese Government imposed the security and preventive and detention acts 2 days before the largest political party started the program synchronizing with the 75th birth anniversary of the former prime minister, the late B.P. Koirala.

More Arrests Reported

BK1109155889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1548 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Excerpt] Kathmandu, Sept 11 (AFP)—Police arrested 20 more pro-democracy activists Monday during peaceful marches to commemorate the birth anniversary of the late leader of the banned Nepali Congress Party, a party source said. The arrests brought to 915 the number of Nepali Congress members rounded up since late Saturday, the source said. He added that 66 people had been detained late Sunday.

In the capital on Monday, 10 people were detained, including suspended Kathmandu Mayor Hari Bol Bhattarai, Central Executive Committee member Aditya Neupane and district president Nilamber Panthi. Other arrests were made in Lamjung and Gorkha Districts, the source said.

He added that at least 15 persons had been released late Sunday, including two youth leaders, Prakash Man Singh and Damodar Gautam, and a nine-year-old girl who had been taken into custody with two of her grandparents. He said none of the activists arrested in the districts outside Kathmandu had been released as of late afternoon Monday.

The outlawed Nepali Congress has organized a week of celebrations to commemorate the 76th birth anniversary of its late leader Biseswore Prasad Koirala, who died of lung cancer in August 1982.

The current "People's Awareness Celebration" was a "rehearsal" for political agitation in November to demand the dissolution of the partyless Panchayat system in favor of a multiparty system based on Western models, the party source said.

The Nepali Congress is planning activities against the Panchayat system with other banned parties, including pro-Marxist, Leninist and other leftist groups. [passage omitted]

Government Confirms Arrests

BK1209090689 Hong Kong AFP in English 0858 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Kathmandu, Sept 12 (AFP)—The government has confirmed the arrest of 624 people in the past 48 hours for involvement in "undesirable activities with the intention of disturbing peace in the country".

The banned Nepali Congress had announced a week of celebrations to coincide with the 76th anniversary of the birth of its late leader Biseswore Prasad Koirala, who died of lung cancer in August 1982.

The Nepali Congress said Monday [11 September] that over 900 people in over 16 districts had been arrested since Saturday to foil their celebration programme of marches and speeches. The government said it had already released 108 of the 624 held.

"The banned Nepali Congress activists were arrested for trying to disturb the peace by misleading and instigating the masses with questions of shortages and high prices of consumers goods and services, out of political bias and 'ulterior motives'," a spokesman said, adding that those still held would be released "after due investigation".

In November the Nepali Congress called for the overthrow of the 29-year-old non-party political system in Nepal and demanded the return of a multi-party system of government with human rights guarantees for the nation's 18.4 million people.

Pakistan

Report on Coup Attempt Termed 'Baseless'

BK0909022689 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] An official spokesman in Rawalpindi has described a report published in the FINANCIAL TIMES in London on an attempt to overthrow the Government in Pakistan and the arrest of some officers in the Armed Forces in this regard as baseless.

Bhutto Denies Press Report

BK0909151989 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1507 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The prime minister has categorically refuted press reports which stated that an attempt was made to overthrow her government. Talking to newsmen after inaugurating the Utilities Stores Corporation headquarters building in Islamabad this evening, Benazir Bhutto said that no officer of the Armed Forces has been arrested in this connection. She said that the Pakistan People's Party government has provided complete freedom to the press, which can publish any report it wants to, and that her government's doors are open for anyone to confirm or deny a news report. It would, however, be better if reports were properly verified and confirmed before publication.

Sri Lanka

Communique on Premadasa-Opposition Meeting

BK0909111889 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 9 Sep 89

[Text] The all-party conference is scheduled to be held at the BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] in Colombo at 0930 on Wednesday 13 September. This conference has been convened to consider the various proposals that have been made to resolve the present crisis. The government is thankful to the political parties and the groups who have called for a cessation of violence and for the restoration of peace.

A government communique issued by the Presidential Secretariat says that there is a national consensus in regard to bringing into the mainstream of politics those forces that are outside the democratic process, preventing violence, and the restoration of peace and normalcy. The government also finds a national consensus on the restructuring of the political, economic, and administrative systems ensuring equal rights of all people regardless of caste, creed, or community and the elimination of socioeconomic disparities.

The government hopes that the all-party conference will be a forum for the realization of these objectives leading to peace and unity among all people in the country.

President R. Premadasa met a delegation comprising the Sri lanka Freedom Party, the United Socialist Alliance, the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front], the Sri Lanka Muslim Congress, and the MEP [Mahajana Eksath Peramuna], led by the leader of the opposition, Mrs Sirimavo Bandanaraike, at the Presidential Secretariat yesterday. The delegation discussed the prevailing situation in the country and said that they have already made certain proposals for the restoration of peace and the effective functioning of the democratic institutions. The main features of their proposals are that a provisional government be formed by parliament to run the country, the executive presidency be replaced with the prime minister responsible to parliament, free and fair elections to follow and those parties not represented in parliament to be included in the process by means of consultations.

The president informed the delegation that he has also received proposals from other political parties and groups and that all these proposals need careful study and examination with a view to achieving peace, normalcy, and stability. The president also said that he hopes to carry out a series of consultations with all the parties and groups immediately after the first meeting of the all-party conference. He also said that he hopes to complete these consultations within a period of 1 month and once this process is over, he would reconvene the all party conference on decide on further steps to be taken.

It was generally agreed by the government and the opposition parties that it was of the utmost importance to bring all forces outside the mainstream into the democratic process.

Main Opposition Party To Attend Peace Talks

BK1209102089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1004 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Excerpts] Colombo, Sept 12 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition party announced Tuesday [12 September] it would take part in a crucial peace conference called by President Ranasinghe Premadasa to end political violence in the island republic.

Former Prime Minister Sirima Bandaranaike's Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) said in a statement issued here that it will attend Wednesday's meeting of political parties to search for a solution to the national crisis.

"The SLFP is fully alive to its responsibility to participate in the process of bringing an end to carnage, particularly of our youth, fear-psychosis and the disintegration of our society," the statement said.

The government has invited some 23 registered political parties and two others to Wednesday's conference here to negotiate an agreement on the restoration of peace and normality. [passage omitted]

The SLFP's statement reiterated its position that the abolition of the executive presidency and the establishment of a provisional government to stage fresh elections would enable "all sections of society to join the democratic process." [passage omitted]

Mr. Premadasa has already said he is willing to consider constitutional reforms suggested by opposition parties.

In another development, security forces took into custody 201 suspected subversives, an official term for JVP [Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna, People's Liberation Front] activists, in anti-rebel sweeps across the country, a government statement said.

It said 23 subversives surrendered to security forces in North Central Province in the past 24 hours.

Subversives torched nine houses belonging to security personnel across the country during the same period, the statement said.

Gunmen also killed a factory manager near here Monday, the statement said, adding that the motive for the killing was not immediately clear. [passage omitted]

LTTE Representative to All-Party Talks Named

BK1009031889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 10 Sep 89

[Text] The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] will attend the all-party conference to bring peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka scheduled to be held on Wednesday [13 September] in Colombo. Mr Lawrence Tilagar will represent the group at the conference. The LTTE is one of the 25 political parties and groups invited to attend it.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr R. Wijeratne, met the president, Mr R. Premadasa, in Colombo yesterday after his return from the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit in Belgrade. He acquainted Mr Premadasa with the Indian response to the proposals which Mr Premadasa had earlier sent to Delhi. Mr Wijeratne told our Colombo correspondent after the meeting that one or two small clarifications are now being worked out in consultations with India and a decision on the concerned issue is expected shortly.

LTTE To Join Proposed Peace Committee

BK1109160189 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 89

[Text] In Sri Lanka, the vice chancellor of Moratuwa University, Mr C. Patuvathavithana, was shot dead in his office today. According to reports, gunmen killed the security guard at the gate before storming the office of the vice chancellor, about 18 kilometers south of Colombo. A chancellor of the university and the famous space scientist, Dr Arthur Clark, has expressed his deep distress at the assassination. He told our Colombo correspondent Plabon Majumder that Patuvathavithana had been striving to give the best for the students.

In other incidents in the island, 13 militants were killed and 10 injured in the operations of the peacekeeping force in the Northeastern Province last week.

A joint communique of the withdrawal of the peacekeeping force and related matters is expected to be issued by Colombo and New Delhi soon. Informed sources in New Delhi say that the efforts to resolve the issue are progressing well after a broad agreement was reached with the Sri Lankan delegation led by the foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratane, at Belgrade during the NAM [Nonaligned Movement] summit. The sources described as good the indication from the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] that it will join the proposed peace committee, but the ultimatum given by the LTTE to the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] government [in Northeast Province] to quit has raised doubts whether the LTTE leaders are really sincere to return to the path of democracy, the sources pointed out.

Fresh Wave of Rebel-Backed Strikes Begins

BK0809132789 Hong Kong AFP in English 1306 GMT 8 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 8 (AFP)—Some 90,000 tea pluckers in southern Sri Lanka went on a week-long strike in response to a call by Sinhalese rebels as a fresh wave of work-stoppages hit the strife-torn island, officials and residents said Friday.

Banks, railways and hospitals had also been affected by the strike, which came days after a rebels-backed national strike crippled life across the island for a week, they said.

Trade union officials said work in all the tea estates in the southern Ratnapura District had come to a standstill since Thursday when the call by the rebel group, Janata Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front), went into effect. They said the JVP gave no reason for the strike-call, but it was believed to be part of the group's campaign to cripple the economy.

Government officials said tea production in the island's main growing area in the central hills had however not been affected by the strike. Tea is the main foreign exchange earner of this Indian Ocean island republic.

The officials said all state-owned and private sector banks in the Ratnapura area had also been closed for a week from Thursday after bank employees struck work in response to a call by the JVP. They said banks in the central Badulla District had been working only for an hour for the past few days in line with a rebels' directive.

Meanwhile, train services were disrupted after employees kept away from work Friday to protest the shooting of a train guard at Wattala, near here,

Thursday. Railway officials said only three morning trains operated from Colombo Friday. Health services in the capital remained disrupted as the main government hospital, except for the accident ward, and many private hospitals remained closed, a Health Ministry spokesman said. He said the minor staff of the general hospital refused to protest a raid by the security forces on the residential quarters of some doctors Monday.

Meanwhile police said a soldier shot dead three colleagues and wounded two at an army post at Dharaniyagala, 70 kilometers (43 miles) east of here, Thursday and escaped with his automatic weapon. They said the soldier was suspected of having links with the JVP rebels and was under observation.

"Apparently he realised it and decided to escape," one official said, adding that a search was on for him. Security officials said in another incident four students, aged between eight and 16, were killed in a bomb explosion in a house at Diganhena in the southern Matara District late Wednesday. They said two of the victims were brothers and belonged to the house where the explosion occurred.

The oldest boy, who was identified as a JVP rebel named P.A. Gamini, had brought a crude bomb home to "show-off" to his younger brother and his friends when it accidentally went off, the officials said. No elders were present at the house at the time of the explosion, they added.

Meanwhile, a government statement said subversives, as the JVP rebels are officially called, shot dead a school principal in neighbouring Hambantota District, while the security forces shot dead a rebel in the north-western Puttalam District.

Former President's Sister-in-Law Shot to Death

BK1209100089 Hong Kong AFP in English 0955 GMT 12 Sep 89

[Text] Colombo, Sept 12 (AFP)—Gunmen shot dead a close relative of a former Sri Lankan president at a busy commercial area here Tuesday [12 September], police said.

Giladys Jayewardene, sister-in-law of [former] President Junius Jayewardene, was killed as she was travelling in a car in the Slave Island area, police said. No details were immediately available.

Mrs. Jayewardene was the chairman of the State Phamaceuticals Corporation and the wife of R.P. Jayewardene, a younger brother of the former president, who retired at the end of last year.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but similar strikes have been blamed on the anti-government Sinhalese Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front).

JVP Suspected of Assassinating Monk

BK1009132089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1310 GMT 10 Aug 89

[Excerpt] Colombo, Sept 10 (AFP)—Gunmen have assassinated a leading Buddhist monk in north-central Sri Lanka as 13 other people died elsewhere in politically motivated violence, officials and witnesses said Sunday. Kahawe Vimalasiri, 67, was shot dead at his temple in Anuradhapura district late Saturday by an unknown number of gunmen posing as devotees, security sources said.

They said the killing was believed to be the work of the anti-government Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP, or People's Liberation Front). The Sinhalese rebel group had accused the monk of collaborating with security forces. A government statement Sunday said 87 suspected subversives, an official term for JVP activists, were taken in for questioning in the past 24 hours.

"Subversives killed three civilians," the statement said without giving details on the deaths.

Residents in Bellanvila, a suburb of Colombo, said they saw six charred bodies in a rice field Sunday while one more body was found in a nearby town. The circumstances of the deaths were not immediately clear. The statement said some 250 subversives had surrendered, and security forces were screening them. Some are believed to be hard-core JVP members, it added.

Officials said JVP activists had torched scores of government buildings and tea factories during the past week in southern province, a stronghold of the radical Sinhalese group.

In the island's Tamil-populated northeast, Indian troops killed three activists of the dominant Tamil guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), in separate incidents, the statement said. [passage omitted]